

HISTORY OF PERRY, N. Y.

FRANK D. ROBERTS

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STATUE OF MARY JEMISON, "THE WHITE WOMAN OF THE GENESEE," LOCATED
IN LETCHWORTH STATE PARK AT PORTAGE

HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF PERRY

NEW YORK



COMMODORE OLIVER HAZARD PERRY
THE HERO OF THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE
IN WHOSE HONOR THE TOWN WAS NAMED

X COMPILED AND WRITTEN BY
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INTRODUCTION

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About one hundred and seven years ago, several of the energetic and enterprising settlers from Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine and other States, emigrated from their native homes and established themselves within the bounds of the present Town of Perry. The wilds rapidly gave way to civilization; the forests fell as the dwellings arose; soon the unobstructed streams were arrested, their currents made subservient to the will and comfort of man, and the conquering power of industry and science, with the profuse bounties of Nature, combined to render this one of the most beautiful and prosperous abodes of man.

With what delight would these same pioneers gaze upon the Perry of today! Their retrospective view would begin at the time when they felled the first tree, turned the first furrow, raised the first log cabin, and then the modern frame house. They would remember the first few houses which formed the nucleus of our present village; they would contemplate with deep satisfaction the fruit of their labor, toil and early sacrifices, which now have resolved themselves into a common heritage to us of the Perry of today.

On this One Hundredth Anniversary of the incorporation of our Town, I take pleasure in submitting facts concerning its early and general history. It has been my aim to seek out the facts from every available source, recognizing as I do the historical importance of the subject. However, errors may prob-

ably be found; many things of real importance may be missing; but not until one undertakes a work of this kind can the amount of labor and the difficulty of obtaining substantiated facts be realized. This is not given with the idea that it is even considered a complete history, but rather a collection of articles dealing with past local events. These have been gleaned from reliable sources of information: old letters, files of the Perry Herald, Perry Record, miscellaneous copies of The Countryman, Silver Lake Sun, Wyoming Times and other newspapers. Beer's History of Wyoming County, published in 1880, has been consulted extensively. The Life of Mary Jemison by Seaver, and J. W. Merrill's History of the Twenty-Fourth New York Battery, have also furnished much material.

The writer presents the work with the belief that it is as correct as it is humanly possible to produce it at this late period. Moreover, the present has seemed to be the opportune time for preparing a history, as the sources of trustworthy information are rapidly disappearing.

FRANK D. ROBERTS

Perry, New York, 1914.

At the request of the author, the editor of the Record will add such facts of local history as are of his intimate knowledge during the past quarter century.

CHAPTER I

Early History of Wyoming County—How It was Formed—Mary Jemison, the “White Woman of the Genesee”—First Settlers in the Several Towns.

The land now embraced in Wyoming County was a part of Albany County from 1683 to 1772; Tryon County from 1772 to 1784; Montgomery County from 1784 to 1789; and Ontario County from 1789 to 1802.

Genesee County was formed from Ontario County on March 30th, 1802. It comprised all that part of the State lying west of the Genesee River and a line extending due south from the point of the junction of that river and Canaseraga Creek; to the south line of the State. Allegany County was taken from Genesee in 1806; Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Niagara in 1808; parts of Livingston and Monroe in 1821; Orleans in 1824, and Wyoming on May 14th, 1841. Wyoming County is an interior county and contains 590 square miles.

The eastern tier of towns, with the exception of a portion of Castile, belonged to the Ogden, Silver Lake and Cotringer tracts of the Morris Reservation, and the remaining part of the county to the Holland Purchase. The Gardeau Tract, containing 17,927 acres on both sides of the Genesee River, was reserved for Mary Jemison by the Seneca Indians in their treaty with Robert Morris in 1797. About one-half of this tract lies in the present Town of Castile. Mary Jemison and her descendants continued to reside upon this tract until 1816, when she sold all but two square miles on the west side of the river to Micah Brooks and Jellis Clute, and removed to the Cattaraugus Reservation.



From a Painting by the late
Carlos Stebbins of Pike

Mary Jemison, known as "The White Woman of the Genesee," was the first white woman to reside in this region. She was of Irish parentage, born in 1743, during the voyage across the ocean. The family settled upon the western frontier of Pennsylvania, where they remained in peace until the breaking out of the French War in 1754. In the summer of 1755 their home was surrounded by a band of Indians and Frenchmen, who plundered all that was valuable and carried away the whole family as captives, except two brothers who were working in the barn, and who, knowing that their aid could accomplish no purpose, made good their escape. The captives were taken into the forests, and in a day or two all were murdered and scalped, except Mary and a small boy, who were carried to Fort Duquesne. She was soon afterwards adopted by two

Indian sisters and taken to an Indian settlement on the Ohio River to supply the place of a brother who had been slain in battle. She was given the name of "De-he-wa-mis," meaning "A beautiful girl." The sorrow consequent upon being torn from her friends gradually wore away and she became quite reconciled to her new condition.

After arriving at a suitable age she was married to a young Delaware Indian named "Shenenjee." In 1759 she changed her residence, traveling on foot to the Genesee, and locating at Little Beard's Town, near the present site of Cuyler-ville. During this long journey she carried her little son on her back the entire distance of 600 miles. Her husband did not accompany her on the trip, having previously joined a war party traveling in another direction, the understanding being that at the close of the campaign he was to join his family at their new home on the Genesee. Shortly after her arrival she received word that her husband had been taken sick and had died soon after her departure. Two or three years later she married an Indian named Hi-ok-a-too. Four children were born of this union.

When General Sullivan invaded the country, her house and fields shared the fate of the rest. Seeing them all destroyed, she set about preparing for the coming winter. Taking her two younger children on her back and bidding the three others to follow, she sought employment, where, by husking, she paid for 25 bushels of shelled corn, enough to supply her family through the winter.

At the close of the French war she had the privilege extended to her of returning to the English, but she chose to remain with the Indians, as she knew that her half-breed children would not be welcomed among her English friends.

After the close of the Revolution she received a grant of

the Gardeau Reservation, which was about six miles in length and five miles in width. Although she adopted the customs and habits of the Indians, she retained her knowledge of the English language and remembered the early instructions of her mother. Toward the close of her life she embraced the Christian religion, and died on September 19th, 1833, aged 90 years. She was buried in the old Mission burial ground near Buffalo, but in March, 1874, her remains were taken up and re-interred on the Letchworth Estate. What was left of the old headstone was also taken up and erected near the head of the grave. Near this, at the present time stands a marble monument—a square block—some six feet in height. Upon one face of this is carved the inscription which originally appeared on her tombstone. It also bears other historical facts. Surmounting this is a magnificent bronze statute of Mary Jemison in her Indian costume, bearing on her back a babe, just as she came to the Genesee Valley.

Here, on the banks of the Genesee River, to the murmur of which she listened during seventy-two years of her eventful life, lie her honored remains. She passed through such trials as fall to the lot of but few people in this life.

The first white man who lived in this county was Ebenezer Allen, a notorious Tory, commonly known as “Indian Allen.” He was a native of New Jersey and joined the marauders who, under the leadership of Brandt, scourged with fire and sword the Susquehanna Valley, and toward the close of the Revolutionary War settled upon the Genesee, cultivating for a time the fertile river flats belonging to Mary Jemison. He afterward erected mills at Rochester, and later lived for a time on the Oatka Creek, until his removal to Delwarton, West Canada, where he died in 1814. Few characters mentioned in either history or fiction have approached so nearly the idea of total depravity as this blood-thirsty monster. He was an

open polygamist, murdered several persons while professing the greatest friendship for them, and while upon the war trail he amused himself by dashing out the brains of infants.

The greater part of Wyoming County is embraced in the tract known as the "Holland Purchase," some of the eastern towns being included in the Morris Reserve. The territory known as Western New York was originally claimed by the State of Massachusetts by virtue of a charter granted by the King of England to the Plymouth Colony. The same territory was subsequently granted to the Duke of York and Albany. Without giving a history of the disputes which arose between the States of Massachusetts and New York, we will say that the question was settled by a convention of Commissioners who met at Hartford, Conn., on December 16th, 1786. According to the stipulations entered into, Massachusetts ceded to New York all her claim to the sovereignty and jurisdiction of the territory lying west of the east boundary of New York, and the State of New York ceded to Massachusetts the right of pre-emption to the soil of all that part of New York lying west of the meridian passing through a point in the south boundary of the State, 82 miles west of the northeast corner of the State of Pennsylvania, excepting a strip one mile wide, extending along the east bank of the Niagara River, from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

In April, 1788, Massachusetts contracted to sell this territory to Nathaniel Gorham and Oliver Phelps for 300,000 pounds in the consolidated securities of that State, which were at a discount of more than 50 per cent at that time. The rapid advance in the value of these securities rendered Phelps and Gorham unable to fulfill their contract and a large part of the purchase reverted to the State. The part retained and subsequently known as the "Phelps and Gorham Purchase" was bounded east by the pre-emption line already described,

and west by a meridian passing through the point at the junction of the Canaseraga Creek and the Genesee River, south by the south line of the State and north from this point along the Genesee River to a point two miles north of the Village of Canawagus (Avon,) thence west 12 miles, thence northerly to Lake Ontario at a distance of 12 miles from the Genesee River. On March 11th, 1791, the State of Massachusetts sold the territory west of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase to Robert Morris, the assignee of Samuel Ogden. Mr. Morris sold to the Holland Company all the tract lying west of a meridian passing through a point 12 miles west of the southwest corner of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase.

The territory lying between the Holland Purchase and Phelps and Gorham purchase was called "Morris Reserve" and was sold to various parties in large tracts. The sale was made to the Holland Company before the Indian title was abrogated, but with an agreement on the part of Morris that it should be annulled as soon as practicable. This was effected by a treaty made at Big Tree (near the present site of Geneseo) in September, 1797. The meeting of the Commissioners and the Indians was exceedingly interesting. Full accounts of its proceedings have been published and form an important part of the history of the Genesee Country. A section of the original Big Tree, at which this council took place, may be seen at Portage, near the grave of Mary Jemison, where it was placed by the late Hon. Wm. Pryor Letchworth. In this treaty the Indians retained certain reservations in different parts of the purchase, some of which they continue to occupy.

Preparations were soon made to survey this tract, and a line run with a transit instrument, between Morris' Reserve and the Holland Purchase, was called the "Transit Line." This line ran near the present Transit Road on the west boundary of the Town of Perry. Theophilus Cazenove, of Philadelphia,

Pa., was the general agent of the company, and Joseph Ellicott was the principal surveyor. It was surveyed into ranges numbered from east to west and into townships about six miles square, numbered from south to north. The townships were subdivided into lots three-fourths of a mile square and numbered from south to north, beginning on the east tier. The survey was begun early in the Spring of 1798. Among the surveyors were: Joseph and Benjamin Ellicott, John Thompson, R. M. Stoddard, George Burgess, James Dewey, David Ellicott, Aaron Oakford, Jr., Augustus Porter, Seth Pease, James Smedley, George Eggleston and William Shepard.

Previous to the sale of the tract to the Holland Company, Mr. Morris had sold the triangle tract of 87,000 acres to LeRoy, Bayard & McEvers, and 100,000 acres directly west of this to the State of Connecticut and Sir William Pulteney. Upon arriving at the south line of the Connecticut tract, Mr. Ellicott found that the east side of the Holland Purchase would intersect that tract, to avoid which he moved west about two miles and then ran the line due north to Lake Ontario.

In 1799 Theophilus Cazenove was succeeded by Paul Busti as general agent of the Holland Land Company. He remained in charge of the affairs of the company until 1824, when he was succeeded by John J. VanDer Kemp, who continued in charge until 1837, when the business of the company was closed up.

The first land office in this section was located at Pine Grove at the home of Mr. Asa Ransom. In 1802, Genesee County was formed and the land office was moved to Batavia. The building which the Holland Land Company then erected is standing on its original location on Main street, Batavia, a memorial to the pioneer land-owner of Western New York.

Joseph Ellicott received the appointment as Local Agent

and continued as such until 1821. During that year he was succeeded by Jacob S. Otto, who held office until his death in 1827. David E. Evans was local agent during the remainder of the company's business career. In the year 1811, Ebenezer Mix entered the service of the company as clerk and had control of the sales and sub-divisions of the land. It was through these men that the pioneers of Wyoming County, west of the Transit Line, made their original land purchases. Those desiring land on the east side of the line were obliged to go to Canandaigua to secure their proper titles.

The opening of this new region to settlement, under the auspices of a rich and liberal company, instituted a new order of things in the general history of the county and was of great benefit to the settlers. Roads were constructed, bridges erected, and everything done to promote settlement and to remove difficulties in the paths of the settlers. The affairs of the company were always conducted in a most honorable way. Lands were sold at moderate prices with a small cash payment and liberal terms were given for the balance. In consequence of the richness of the land and the moderate prices asked by the company, settlers came rapidly, and soon the entire region was well filled with an enterprising and industrious population.

On March 19th, 1808, Warsaw was formed from Batavia and then comprised the present towns of Middlebury, Warsaw and Gainesville. Middlebury was set off from Warsaw in 1812; Gainesville in 1814. Sheldon was also formed from Batavia on March 19th, 1808. In 1811, Attica was formed from Sheldon and embraced the present towns of Attica, Orangeville and Wethersfield. Orangeville was formed in 1816 from Attica, and Wethersfield from Orangeville on April 12th, 1823. Bennington was formed from Sheldon on March 6th, 1818, and China on March 6th, 1818. On April 20th, 1832, Java was formed from China, and in 1866 the name of China was

changed to Arcade. Eagle, Pike and Genesee Falls were annexed to Wyoming County from Allegany in 1846. Perry was set off from Leicester in 1814, and Castile from Perry in 1821. Covington was formed in 1817 from Perry and LeRoy.

First Settlers in Each of the Towns of Wyoming County:

Town	Date	By Whom Settled
Arcade	1809	..... Silas Meech
Attica	1802	..... Zerah Phelps
Bennington	1802	.... John Towles, Jacob Wright, Wm. Barber
Castile	1808	..... Daniel McKay
Covington	1807	..... Jairus Cruttenden, and three others
Eagle	1808	..... William Hodges
Gainesville	1805	..... Charles Bristol, William Richards
Genesee Falls	1804	..... John, Seth and Saml. Fields
Java	1808	..... William Richardson, T. Kirby
Middlebury	1802	..... Jabez Warren
Orangeville	1805	..... John Duncan
Perry	1807	..... Joseph Woodward
Pike	1806	Peter Granger, Ely Griffith, A. Newcomb, P. Harvey, Caleb Powers came at the same time
Sheldon	1804	..... Roswell Turner
Warsaw	1803	..... Eleazur Webster
Wethersfield	1810	Lewis Hancock, Guy Morgan, Calvin Clifford

CHAPTER II

Various Names by Which the Town was Known—How Formed—Its Acreage—Early Settlers and Where They Came From—Rivalry Between the Inhabitants—Anecdotes.

Perry was named in honor of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, the hero of the Battle of Lake Erie. This was not the first name given the place. It was originally called "Slab-town," which was soon changed to Shacksburg, and afterwards to Beechville. At the time of the incorporation of the Town of Perry the village was known as Columbia. Later, this was changed to Ninevah, but gradually the village assumed the name of Perry.

An anecdote of the days when the place was called Ninevah may be of interest. At that time Perry Center and Perry were about of equal size and there was a great deal of rivalry between the inhabitants of the two hamlets. The story goes that one year there was a serious drought, when all of the wells at the Center became dry, with the exception of one on the place owned by Deacon Howard. Residents of Ninevah went to the Center, cut a log, and with it plugged the Deacon's well. Some one wrote a poem about the incident, which we have been unable to secure, but these last few lines have been given to us as illustrative of the thought of the poem:

And those Ninevites came
As sure as Hell
And dropped a log
In Dea. Howard's well.

Perry was set off from Leicester and incorporated as a town on March 11th, 1814, and at the time of its corporation

included Castile and a part of Covington. At this time, and until the formation of Wyoming County on May 14th, 1841, Perry was a part of Genesee County. Castile was set off from Perry in the year 1821. The portion of Covington was taken off in 1817. The Village of Perry was incorporated by a special act of the Legislature on May 17th, 1830. The charter then adopted was given up and a new one was granted by a special act of the Legislature in 1864, to meet the requirements due to changed circumstances. The village was governed under that charter until 1901. Its provisions were somewhat indefinite, and as the Legislature had adopted a General Village Law which greatly simplified matters and made the duties of the governing powers explicit, by vote of the residents of the village, taken on February 19th, 1901, the decision was in favor of adopting the General Village Law and it became effective in March, 1901, since which time the village has been governed by its provisions.

There are 21,120 acres of land in the Town of Perry. This is included in a tract of 50,000 which was sold by Robert Morris to Samuel Ogden and which has always been known as the "Ogden Tract." The northern part of this tract, which includes about one-third of the town, was divided by Mr. Ogden and sold to several different parties. The entire western portion of the northern part was sold to Mr. Guernsey, who divided the land into small parcels and sold it to many of the incoming settlers. The eastern part was sold to Jacob Ely and others. Between them, on account of a discrepancy in the survey, was created what became known as "The Gore." The southern portion, which includes more than one-half of the Town of Perry, was called the "South Ogden Tract," and sometimes the "Lake Tract.

In 1807 the latter portion was surveyed by William Shepard of Canandaigua and soon afterward was placed upon the

market. John Greig, who had established a land agency at Canandaigua, had charge of the sales and sold most of the land in small lots to the settlers.

Immigration to Western New York did not become rapid until after the Revolutionary War and for several years was principally confined to the regions nearest Lakes Erie and Ontario. In the year 1800, Buffalo was still a small town and there was not a house on the present site of the City of Rochester. It was not until about this time that the sturdy pioneers began moving up the fertile Valley of the Genesee.

In the early Spring of 1807, a certain Joseph Woodward arrived from the eastern part of the State, made a small clearing in the virgin timber and erected thereon the first log cabin to be constructed in the Town of Perry. This was one of the usual block style and stood on the land now owned by Mr. Thomas Wright, about one-half mile east of Perry Center. In



One of the few remaining Log Cabins built by the Pioneer of this section; situated about three miles east of Perry, and the only one in this locality that is occupied at the present time.

1809, evidently dissatisfied with his location, Mr. Woodward moved to Mount Morris. Deacon Butler, who arrived in Perry in 1810, purchased the land and occupied the house.

The first permanent settler of the town, however, was Mr. Samuel Gates. Mr. Gates was born in Colchester, Conn. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War he had promptly enlisted in a militia regiment which was soon attached to General Gates' Army. He participated in a number of engagements and was present at the surrender of Burgoyne. About a year after the close of the war, he started on foot for the far west. Arriving at Canajoharie in the Mohawk Valley, he found employment and remained there for four years. In 1787 he married a young lady of 16 years and took up the occupation of boatman, transporting goods as far west as Seneca Lake, when there were none but Indian traders to supply. Being favorably impressed with the country lying at the head of Seneca Lake, he erected a cabin and moved his family there. Although there were no whites residing in that vicinity, Mr. Gates and his family continued to live there during eight years. The next six years Mr. Gates and his family spent at Caneadea. In the Spring of 1807 he learned that the country around what is now Perry was being surveyed, and hearing that the land in this vicinity was excellent, he journeyed here to see it. Finding that it was all that had been claimed for it, he erected his cabin on the hill overlooking the northwest end of Silver Lake, near the present residence of Parris Andrews, and returned to Caneadea for his family. Mr. Gates raised the first crop of wheat and set out the first orchard in the Town of Perry. His daughter Nancy was the first white child born in the town.

As might be expected, hired help was not to be procured at this period of the town's history, and the settlers had to depend upon their wives to assist them in their work. In August, 1812, while Mrs. Gates was assisting her husband in piling up

some logs, she ruptured a blood vessel and died very suddenly. Her remains were buried near the center of the old cemetery where the Perry Public Library now stands. In January of the following year, the infant town was visited by an epidemic which carried away a number of the settlers, and Mr. Gates fell as one of its victims. He was buried beside the remains of his wife.

While journeying through the woods to attend the funeral of Mr. Gates, Mr. Amos Otis pulled up a small sapling, using it as a cane. After the grave had been filled, Mr. Otis noticing a few roots on the sapling, pressed them gently into the soft earth. Two or three years afterward he visited the cemetery and was surprised to see that the little tree was growing nicely. He took out his pocket knife, trimmed the branches, and during several years carefully watched its growth. The tree thrived and grew into the large and stately oak which was cut down in 1914 to make way for the new library building.

As will be noted, Mr. Gates was one of those indomitable pioneers who preferred the hardships incident to pioneer life to the comforts of living in settled communities. A good share of his life was spent on the extreme frontier. As the regions in which he had lived began to fill up with settlers, he seemed to have an uncontrollable desire to penetrate even further into the western wilderness.

A few weeks after the arrival of Mr. Gates, Deacon Samuel Salisbury, who was a resident of Leicester, passed through the Town of Perry on his way to visit his brother, who had settled near the present Village of Warsaw. While near the present site of Perry Center, he was startled by hearing the sound of an axe, and hesitated whether to venture up to the party wielding it, fearing that it might be a party of Indians; but not being sure of his way, he took the risk and found the stranger—

a white man named Peter Beebe—clearing a spot large enough and getting out timber for a cabin.

During the year 1808, Josiah Williams, Amos Smith and Elisha M. Smith and their families settled within the limits of the present Town of Perry. Mr. Williams came from Vermont, bringing his family and household goods in an ox cart and he erected the first log tavern. This was built on the extreme of North Main street, on the corner of the Simmons Road, on the site now occupied by the residence of the late E. G. Matthews, and it was a popular hostelry for a number of years. Nancy Williams, a daughter, died in 1811, and her's was the first death that occurred among the settlers of this town. Mr. Williams died on January 26th, 1832, aged 68 years. Elizabeth, his wife, died on October 19th, 1829, aged 72 years. Both were buried in the old cemetery where the Library now stands. Amos Smith came from Sherburne, Chenango County, in March and settled three-fourths of a mile east of Perry Center. Elisha M. Smith settled near Sucker Brook and built a log cabin there. In 1810 he erected a frame barn, which was the first frame building erected in the town. It was 30 feet wide by 40 feet long and required the aid of women to raise it, as there were only nine men whose services could be secured.

A daughter of Amos Smith, in speaking of the early times, said that it was the custom then, when a building was to be raised, to have plenty of liquor furnished, otherwise it was thought impossible for the work to go on; but when their house was raised in June, 1827, a new order was introduced. No liquor ever having been used in their family, save in case of sickness, it could not on that occasion be brought on the premises. The carpenter urged that a bottle of liquor be procured and laid aside to be used in case the work should not proceed. But, no; as it was to be a test case, no compromise should be allowed. As a result, temperance prevailed, and it was said to be the

first building raised in that vicinity on the cold water plan. When the work was done, a nice supper awaited the workmen, who seemed to be well satisfied with the change inaugurated.

Again, in speaking of those early times, she said that soon after her father came to Perry, one of his neighbors employed a man to help him with his work. One day, toward night, this man concluded to return to his home, which was a few miles away. Her father and neighbors opposed his going at that time of day, fearing that he might be molested by some of the wild animals, which were then quite plentiful. He still persisted, and finally started out, with the understanding that he was to use his voice in case he needed help. He had not been gone long, however, before he was heard making a loud outcry for assistance. Upon hearing the rather expected signal, the men caught up their guns, and hurrying on, found the man up a small tree, just out of reach of an old bear, with her five cubs. The old one was soon dispatched, when the cubs took to a tree; two of them were killed, the others were captured and carried back in triumph.

During the year 1809, the writer fails to find that any additions were made to the population of this community, but in the early part of 1810, Mr. Amos Otis settled on the west side of Silver Lake inlet, near West Perry, just below Parris Andrews' orchard. Mr. Otis was born in Colchester, Conn., in the year 1787; came to Perry at the age of 23 and spent nearly his whole life in this immediate vicinity. During the last few years of his life he resided in Warsaw, at which place he died in the year 1883, and was buried at West Perry. He passed through all of the phases of pioneer life and lived to see the wilderness in this section changed to the thriving towns and prosperous rural community of today. His wife, Louisa Davison, was the first white child born in Genesee County.

Other arrivals of 1810 were Cornelius Anable, Justin Lyon and Joshua Clark.

Let us digress and consider the circumstances which surrounded the lives of these early settlers as compared to those of the age in which we live. At the beginning of the twentieth century there is, strictly speaking, no frontier to the United States. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the larger portion of the country was frontier. In any portion of the country today, in the remotest villages and hamlets, one is certain to find some, if not many of the modern appliances of civilization such as were not dreamed of one hundred years ago. Aladdin himself could not have commanded the glowing terms necessary to write the prospectus of the closing years of the nineteenth century. So, too, it requires an extraordinary effort of the imagination to conceive of the condition of things in the opening years of that century; or at the time of the early settlement of Perry. If we were to go back to the period mentioned, we can tell with sufficient accuracy what were the circumstances of the early settlers' lives. We cannot tell exactly what he had, but we can name many things that he did not have, for the simple reason that they had not then been invented or discovered. In the first place, we must bear in mind that he lived in the woods. His children could not attend school, for the very good reason that there were no schools in this vicinity. The region was wild, in the sense that, excepting for the Indians, it was almost uninhabited and untilled. This portion of the country was covered with heavy timber, practically unbroken. Bears, wolves, deer, panthers, bobcats, rattlesnakes, wild pigeon and wild geese abounded throughout the section. There were few roads, and certainly none that could be called good. There were a few horses owned, but at this period the oxen predominated. Carts were usually home made and very crude and awkward. No

locomotives, no bicycles, no motor cycles, no automobiles. The only pen was a goose quill and the ink was home made. Paper was scarce and expensive. Newspapers and books were few and far between. There were scythes and sickles, but of a grade that would be unsalable today at any price. There were no self-binding harvesters, no mowing machines. The flail was used until succeeded by the threshing machine. The plows, drags and cultivators were constructed of wood, and very poor apologies for the kinds now in use by our prosperous farmers. Tinder boxes were used until the manufacture of the friction match. For light, the settler depended upon the open fireplace, although the tallow dip was used to some extent at that time. Candles, oil, gas and electricity came later. There was no telegraph, no telephone, comparatively no mail service.

Practically all of the cloth used by the early settler and his family was made by means of the hand loom, and the common fabric was made of a mixture of linen and woolen. As for food, wild game was abundant. There were no oranges, lemons, bananas, no canned goods, and but few importations of any kind. Coffee and tea were a luxury usually not obtainable.

We might go on and on reciting the privations of the pioneer, but it is unnecessary. It is not easy for us, living in the midst of the necessities, comforts and luxuries of a later civilization, to realize the conditions under which the early settlers of this vicinity lived and died.

It required pluck, energy, health, strength and an indomitable will to come into a new country and make it a home. A few of the pioneers gave it up and returned to the east, but the great majority held fast and were rewarded for their labors. Those who had families usually left them behind in coming to the new country, and after providing a new home, returned for them. Others, unmarried, returned for "the girls they left behind them."

One of the greatest inconveniences under which the early settlers labored was caused by the scarcity of mills, and the difficulty of reaching them on account of the lack of roads. Up to this period in the history of the town, the nearest accessible mills were at LeRoy and Conesus; trips which at this time required two or even three days. At this time LeRoy was called "Buttermilk Falls."

During the year 1811, several more families settled in Perry, among whom were Seth Canfield, Julius Curtiss and John Hammersley. Messrs. Canfield and Curtiss formed a partnership and erected the first saw mill built in the town. Mr. Hammersley constructed the first dam on the outlet, now known as the Whipple dam, and in 1813, erected thereon a saw mill. A short time after the completion of this mill, he constructed a flouring mill. This was of small capacity, but sufficient for the needs of the few settlers.

Another arrival in 1811 was Henry Bush. Special mention is made of the fact, because he brought into Perry the only slave ever known to have been brought into the town. This slave went under the name of Jack Bush, was about 20 years of age, and noted chiefly for his enormous size and strength. Under the laws governing slavery at that time, he became a free man when he attained the age of 28. After gaining his liberty he moved to the Town of Attica, dying there many years afterward. It is said that Jack's feet were so large that none of the Attica shoe makers possessed a last large enough to make his shoes, and that he was required to journey to Daniel Ball's shoe shop at Perry Center to get the necessary size. Mr. Ball, it seems, kept a last of enormous proportions, solely on Jack's account.

Orrin Sheldon came here in 1811 from New Marlborough, Mass. He was accompanied by his wife, Sally, aged 17 years,

and their child six months old. They made the trip in an ox cart in which two chairs served as seats, coming by the way of Canandaigua, and were three weeks making the journey. When her husband was obliged to be away from home on business, Sally and the baby were left in care of the Indians, who frequently came and staid at the Sheldon home, and friendly relations existed between them.

Other pioneers who took up land in Perry in 1811 were Aaron Pond, Peter, Elijah and Jonathan Atwood.

The first log house built in the village was erected in the year 1810 by a certain Mr. Palmer, who was supposed to have come from LeRoy. This cabin was erected on the present site of Mr. A. J. Wood's residence (the former Dolbeer property,) near the corner of Dolbeer place and Main street. For some reason, Mr. Palmer never occupied this house, but sold it to Julius Curtiss in the summer of 1811.

The first frame house in the town was erected about the year 1812 by James Edgerly, grandfather of our fellow townsman, Jerome Edgerly. This was a two-story building, situated just south of the "Universalist Hill," near the boundary line of Castile and Perry. Mr. Edgerly was born in Danville, Vt. When 18 years of age, he enlisted in Gen. Sullivan's army, participated in the famous Wyoming Valley Campaign and assisted in driving the Indians over the Genesee River High Banks. He was much impressed with the richness of the land in the Genesee Valley and in 1812 moved his family to Perry.

An orchard was set out by Mr. Edgerly and his son Edmund, on the top of the hill, and after a series of grafting experiments, they produced the famous Edgerly "Bailey Sweet" apples. The trees set out in this orchard were purchased in the east and brought into town on horseback. Some of them are still standing on property adjoining Bradford street, owned by Mr. C. W. Rudd.

The first frame hotel or tavern was erected by another son of Mr. Edgerly, James C. It was located just about where the bend in Bradford street is today, on a road which at that period ran directly south and intersected one that ran from the upper dam, southeast. The second story of this tavern was finished off as a ball room, arched over in the center under the ridge. This was the first dance hall constructed in the town, and there the elite of Perry's early days tripped the "light fantastic" on numerous occasions. Mr. Edgerly kept a few dry goods and groceries in the same building and was Perry's first merchant. Benoni Butler walked the entire distance from Utica to Perry to clerk for Mr. Edgerly. He received the munificent salary of \$6.00 per month and board for his services. While conducting his mercantile business, the first local post office was established, with Mr. Edgerly as postmaster, the mail coming from Leicester on horseback once a week.

About this time there arrived a man by the name of Hugh Higgins, who used ancient stone age methods in dwelling house construction. Near the railroad curve opposite Whipple's boat livery, he burrowed into the hill and made an excavation large enough for himself and his wife to live in. The front of this unique home was built up with flat stones and contained one door and one window. Mr. and Mrs. Higgins raised a family of seven or eight daughters while residing in this dugout.

During 1812, settlers came in rapidly. The second war with England was then in progress, and many chose to stop here, rather than go nearer the seat of war. During the war, the inhabitants of Perry were frequently alarmed by rumors of Indians coming to lay waste the country. They had burned Buffalo and devastated several places in the vicinity, and naturally, the people lived in a state of apprehension throughout the entire struggle. As far as the writer has been able to learn, Perry had but one volunteer in this war. This was Elias,

a son of Josiah Williams, the proprietor of the tavern. He was killed at the defeat of the American General Winchester, at the battle of River Raisin, which took place near Detroit, Mich., in January, 1813. This engagement is sometimes designated as the Battle of Frenchtown. A brief sketch of the battle follows: In the beginning of 1813, the American army had been organized into three divisions—the Army of the North, commanded by Gen. Hampton, to operate in the vicinity of Lake Champlain; the Army of the Center, under direction of the commander-in-chief, to resume offensive movements on the Niagara frontier and Lake Ontario; and the Army of the West, under command of Gen. Winchester, who was soon superseded by Gen. Harrison. Early in January, the last mentioned division, made up of various detachments of militia from the Western States, moved toward the head of Lake Erie to regain the ground lost by Gen. Hull in the previous summer. On the 10th of the month, the American advance, composed of 800 men under Winchester, reached the rapids of the Maumee River. A body of British and Indians was posted at Frenchtown, on the River Raisin, 30 miles from Winchester's camp. A detachment of Americans pressed forward, attacked the enemy on the 18th, captured the town, encamped there, and on the 20th of the month were joined by Winchester and the main division.

Two days afterward, the Americans were suddenly assaulted by a force of 1500 British and Indians, under the command of Gen. Proctor. A severe battle was fought, each side losing nearly 300 men. The British were checked, and for a time the issue was doubtful, but Gen. Winchester having been taken by the enemy, advised his forces to capitulate under a pledge of protection given by Proctor and his subordinate. As soon as the surrender was made, the British general set off at a rapid rate to return to his headquarters at Malden. The American wounded were left to the mercy of the savages, who at once

began their work with tomahawks, scalping knives and torches. The two houses into which most of the wounded had been crowded were fired, while the painted barbarians stood around and hurled back into the flames, whoever attempted to escape. The rest of the prisoners were dragged away through untold sufferings, to Detroit, where they were ransomed at an enormous price.

In the course of 1812, a certain Wm. Gould erected a shoe shop and David Stannard built a tavern. These establishments were erected in the vicinity of our present depot. Another tavern was erected during the same year on the site of the old Alanson Lacy house. It was a log house, and almost as large as the building now standing. The owner was Matthew Lemon, and the day the house was raised, people came from Mt. Morris, Geneseo and other towns to assist in the work. In 1817, Samuel Lacy and his son Elnathan purchased the place, paying \$1600 for the house and 100 acres of land. Mr. Lemon went to Olean and afterward to Ohio, where he became a Methodist minister. Mr. Lacy tore down the log house in 1834 and erected the present frame building. He conducted the new house as a temperance tavern for several years, and eventually gave up the hotel business, thereafter the house being used as a private residence.

Soon after the arrival of Julius Curtiss and Seth Canfield, these gentlemen purchased a tract of land which embraced the greater part of the Village of Perry. The epidemic which prevailed throughout Western New York in 1813 caused the death of both of these men. Their mills and lands were then sold to Mr. Levi Benton. In 1817 this property passed into the hands of William Wiles. During the same year, John Hammersley sold his flouring and saw mills to Benjamin Gardner and Jonathan Child, who afterward removed to Rochester. In 1828, Mr. Gardner erected a large grist mill and began the bus-

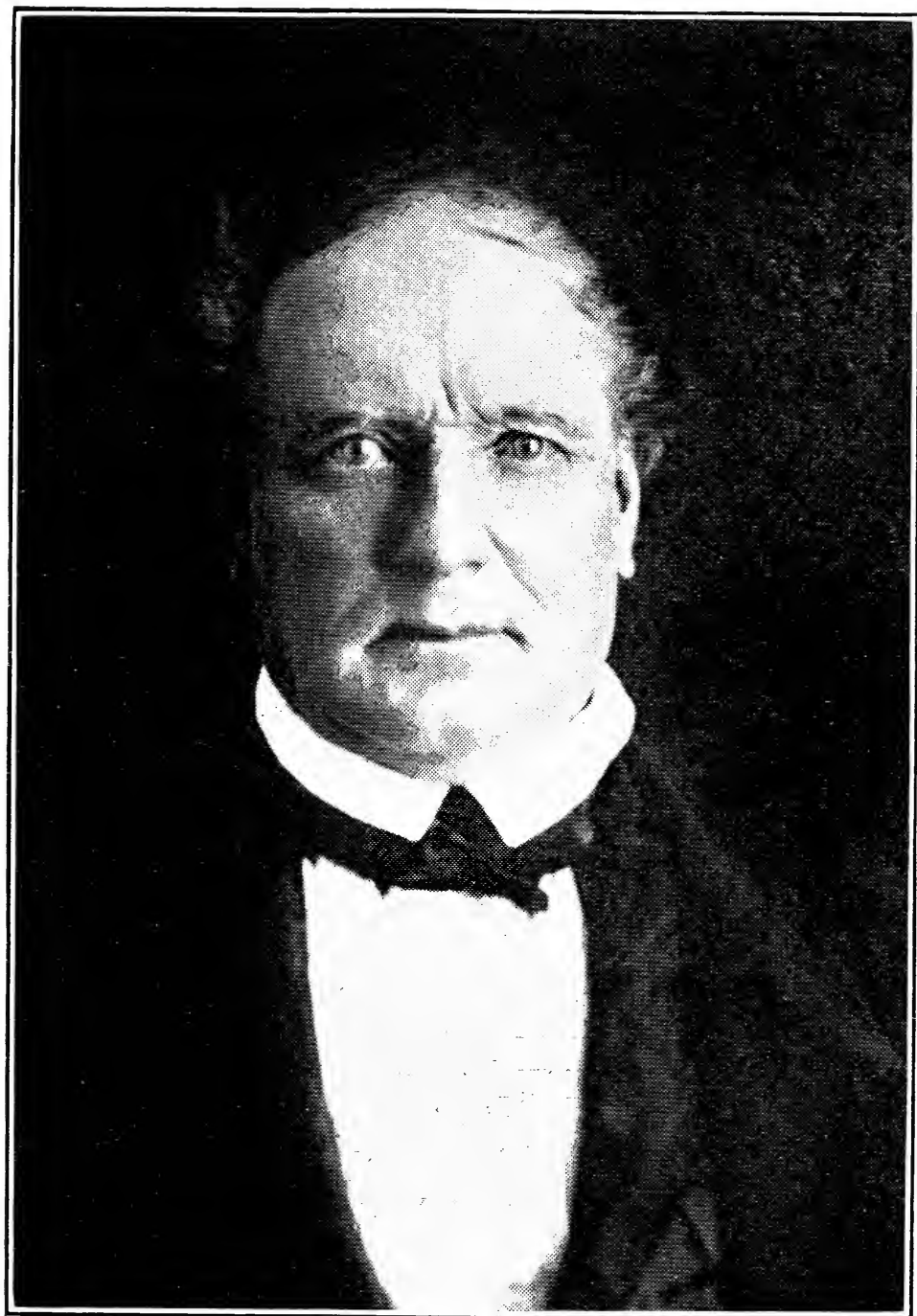
iness of making flour for the eastern markets. This mill was put up by David Edgerly, an early contractor. Mr. Gardner's boss millwright was a Mr. Dazell, who came to Perry from Rochester.

Mr. Gardner was an aristocratic young gentleman and possessed considerable means. His advent into Perry was destined to mean much to the early industrial development of the community. Beside the flouring mill, he also owned and operated a cooper shop, an ashery, one or two other mills or shops, and a general store. He died on Dec. 27th, 1834, aged 45 years, after a short illness, and Perry lost one of the greatest of her earlier citizens. His remains were buried in the old cemetery. A few years ago, they were taken up and re-interred in Hope Cemetery. Mr. Gardner's residence is still standing in a good state of preservation on its original site, just to the rear of our present depot, and is owned at the present time by Mr. C. M. Smith. In its early days it must have been regarded as a beautiful home. A portion of it was his first store.

In 1823, Wm. Wiles sold his mills and lands to Rufus H. Smith, who was an early settler of Perry and subsequently one of the Judges of Genesee County.

In the summer of 1816, John Thompson, who had been in Perry but a short time, was drowned in Silver Lake. He had been across the lake to the home of Aaron Pond, seeking employment. On his return trip, it is supposed that the large dog that he had with him, upset the canoe. Mr. Thompson is supposed to have been the first white person drowned in Silver Lake.

Thomas Edgerly came to Perry from New Hampshire in 1814 and took up a large farm. In 1818 he helped in the erection of a hotel in the village, and kept it for a period of four years. Mr. Edgerly also established himself in business, pur-



JUDGE RUFUS H. SMITH

chasing his goods in Utica and bringing them to Perry with four-horse teams. While engaged in conducting his store, he succeeded James Edgerly as local postmaster. He died in 1837.

A partial list of other pioneers who were early settlers in Perry, follows:

Philip Sparling,	D. Richards,	Freeman Gates,
Almona Hart,	Caleb Phillips,	Greenlief Clark,
Elkanah Bates,	John McIntyre,	Noah Bacon,
Thomas Toan,	Salmon Preston,	Daniel Dickerson,
————— Campbell,	————— Ensign,	Trueman Alverson,
Charles Leonard,	David Moss,	S. Hosford.
Gamaliel Leonard,	Jesse Moss,	Isaac Rudgers,
Ralph Ward,	G. Waldo,	A. Hosford,
Jabez Ward,	M. Burt,	Robert Moore,
Lemuel Blackmer,	Gideon Tabor,	Arwin Olin.
Abram Avery,	Pardon Tabor,	Jacob Nevins,
Richard Buell,	E. Sheldon,	Moses Wooley,
Noah D. Sanger,	Horace Sheldon,	H. Kingsley,
John Squires,	Nath'l Howard,	Richard Alverson,
Graham Benedict,	Samuel Howard,	Samuel Benedict,
William True,	Jacob Reed,	Hugh Glasgow,
Norman Blakeslee,	Daniel Calkins,	G. Glasgow,
Warren Buckland,	J. H. Hollister,	Jonathan Handley,
Jabez Brigham,	J. D. Taylor,	Ebenezer,
Capt. Pat. McEntee,	Levi Silver,	Selden,
Cassander Watrous,	Abram Hamsley,	and Otis Higgins,
Mark Andrews,	————— Bills,	Nahum Phillips,
Samuel Waldo,	————— Foskett,	Samuel Safford,
Septimuss Smith,	John Olin,	Allen Buckland.

During the early settlement of the town the deer were plentiful, and bears and wolves were a great pest. It was almost impossible to keep sheep and hogs. Of five large hogs owned by Mr. Amos Otis, the bears killed four; but Mr. Otis had the satisfaction of killing as many bears as he had had hogs killed.

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Game and fish from Silver Lake greatly helped the settlers in the early years in the way of food, especially in the cold years of 1816 and 1817. Frost occurred every month of the year 1816. Ice formed to the thickness of an inch in May. Snow fell to a depth of three inches in New York on the 5th of July. Corn was frozen to such an extent that the greater part was cut in August and dried for fodder, and the farmers supplied themselves from the corn produced in 1815 for the seeding of the Spring of 1817.

In the issue of the Wyoming Times, an early local publication, of the date of Feb. 13th, 1856. Mr. Otis related the story of a bear hunt which took place in the vicinity of Perry about the year 1815. It follows:

“I had some sport in seeing a couple of Indian hunters kill a bear. During the fall of a light snow they had struck on the trail of a bear, which was followed about a mile, when they found that he had ascended a large chestnut tree and gone into a hole about 25 feet from the ground, where he had evidently designed to take up his winter quarters; but he was foiled in his expectations, for the following morning the Indians gave me and another neighbor an invitation to go with them and see them kill the bear. Arriving at the tree, the first business was to build a fire. They then proceeded to make an Indian ladder. This was done by cutting a sapling about 7 or 8 inches in diameter and trimming off the limbs, leaving them about a foot long. Then, with our help, they raised it up against the tree. They cut a small pole about 15 feet long, and having procured some elm bark which was torn into strips, everything was ready. One of them climbed the ladder and the other drew from the fire some blazing brands, which he tied up with strips of bark and attached them to the small pole. He handed them to the other Indian, who put them into the hole and they fell to the bottom of the tree, where Bruin lay in sound sleep. This was a warm reception for poor Bruin, who, after receiving two or three more bunches of firebrand, began to ascend the tree. The Indian on the ladder immediately came down, and taking their rifles, they placed themselves one on each side of the

tree, a few rods distant and waited for the bear to make his appearance. This he did in a short space of time. Putting his head out of the hole, he looked about with a great deal of indignation to see who had been so abusive as to disturb him in his slumbers. After looking for a short time, he crawled out on a limb of the tree, immediately over the hole, where he became a fine target for the Indians' rifles. At a given signal they both fired at him, when he instantly fell to the ground and expired."

Another incident of the early days is well worth repeating at this time. In the year 1808, Mr. Benjamin Parker, who had located in the Town of Warsaw, made a trip through this section on foot. Upon his return through the forest that covered nearly the whole region between the Transit and Perry Center, he met seven bears—three old ones and four cubs. Having no other weapon than a large club, he struck one of the bears, breaking his club. With no alternative he was obliged to retreat and took refuge in a small tree. His cry for help was heard by Elisha Smith, though nearly a mile distant, and forthwith he went to the rescue, armed with an axe and gun, accompanied by his dog. The four cubs and two of the bears were soon treed, and as it was quite dark, fires were kindled to prevent their escape. In the morning, the two bears were shot and the cubs were taken alive.

During the early years, rattlesnakes were very numerous and many persons were bitten by them. The cases were successfully treated by Tall Chief, an Indian doctor who resided at Squawkie Hill, in the Town of Leicester. The settlers hunted and attacked the snakes in their dens and soon thinned them out.

CHAPTER III

Anecdotes of Calvin P. Bailey, one of the Most Prominent Early Settlers—Perry's First Tavern—Early Settlers of Castile—Perry's Pioneer Physicians—Town Meetings at Perry Center.

Mr. Calvin P. Bailey arrived in Perry in 1816, bringing his family and a stock of merchandise. He formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Samuel Hatch (father of our townsman, S. A. Hatch) and opened a store on the site of the present Hatch block on the corner of Main and Covington streets, now occupied by Roche's grocery, and the firm became Perry's first permanent merchants, although, as stated previously, James C. Edgerly had brought in a few goods. Mr. Bailey was a son of Charles and Martha Bailey and was born in Newbury, Vt., in 1792. In 1814 he married Sybil, daughter of John and Waitsell Hatch, of Hardwick, Vt. Eight children were born of the union. Mr. Bailey continued in the mercantile and general business until his retirement from active pursuits. In the year 1828 he was elected to represent his district in the State Assembly, and in 1840 he was chosen as delegate to the National Convention which placed the name of William Henry Harrison in nomination for the Presidency, on which occasion Mr. Bailey proposed the name of Henry Clay for the nomination, but he was defeated. Mr. Bailey was also the delegate representing Wyoming and Genesee counties at the National Convention of the Whigs, held in Baltimore in 1844.

A story is told of Mr. Bailey's first speech in the Assembly. Notwithstanding the fact that it was a good address, a member of the opposite party desiring to ridicule him, arose following the address and remarked: "Gentlemen, I have often heard of the Genesee Flats, but this is the first time I was ever privileged to see and hear one."

Mr. Bailey was a man of force and positive nature. He never brooked interference and resented opposition. A story is told that at one time he was having a small bridge built across the outlet, near the old tannery site, probably at the time that he was road commissioner. He was assisting a man in laying plank and was standing near the end of a plank about to be spiked to the stringer. He told the man to go and bring a certain tool, and when the man said, "If I do, you'll——" Mr. Bailey commanded him to "Get that tool!" The man obeyed stepping off the other end of the plank, and Mr. Bailey plumped into the outlet with a great splash. He came up spluttering and was assisted to the bridge by his helper, but Mr. Bailey realized that the man had simply obeyed orders and he said nothing in condemnation and took his medicine philosophically. But the story has lived to this day.

Mr. Bailey was a man of generous and philanthropic nature, especially in contributing funds for local institutions. He paid nearly one-half of the expense of building the old Presbyterian Church, although he was not affiliated with the church society. His sons—John H. and Charles W.—were among the first college graduates of the town.

In 1824, Bailey & Hatch erected an oil mill, and in 1827 a grist mill. In 1836, Mr. Bailey and one other erected the block now occupied by Roche's grocery and Chaddock's hardware. All of the stone used in the construction of this building was hauled overland from Brockport, N. Y. The block was an advance over any building that had been erected in the town. At the time of the big fire of 1856, which will be described in another chapter, Mr. Bailey kept the roof from taking fire at great risk to himself. It is about the oldest building in the business section, as nearly all of the rest have been burned at some time or other. Mr. Bailey died at his residence on North Main street on Sept. 8th, 1860. His wife died in 1872. His home oc-

cupied the site of the present residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Wyckoff (the former M. H. Olin property,) and the original building was moved to Water street, where it is now used as a Polish grocery.

Following the opening of the general store by Bailey & Hatch, other mercantile firms came in rapidly, and soon stores covered a good share of the northern part of our present business district.

Warsaw, Batavia, LeRoy and Perry were the four towns in this section favored as centers of trade in the early days. Few goods were sold for cash; almost the whole trade was on credit or barter basis. Notes were made payable in grain, lumber, cattle, etc. Maple sugar formed an important article of trade for many years, constituting the principal source of sweetening. Ashes from burnt timber formed another of the most important articles of trade, and after being converted into black salts, was one of the most valuable commodities at the command of the inhabitants. Containing much value in small bulk, they could be easily transported, and commanded a ready market.

In reading old newspaper advertisements of Perry's early business men, it is a noteworthy feature that all classes of dealers advertised to take furs, lumber, dairy products, in fact anything raised by the settlers in exchange for furniture, groceries, hardware, or anything else held by them for sale. Even the editor of one of Perry's earliest newspapers offered to take "wheat, corn, hay, wood, pork or lard" from those who were indebted to him. That cash was scarce is evident, and most business was conducted, as before stated, on the swap plan.

As previously stated, the Town of Perry was incorporated in 1814. In that year the first town meeting was held at the tavern kept by Peter Beebe at Perry Center, and the following named officers were chosen: Supervisor, Jairus Cruttenden

(who had settled in that portion of Perry which was afterward taken off in forming the Town of Covington.) Town Clerk, Warren Buckland. Collector and Constable, Salmon Preston. Justices of the Peace, Robert Moore, Pardon Tabor, Levi Benton and James Symonds.

For several years after the formation of the town, the people were obliged to go to Batavia for the most of their public business, that town being the county seat, embracing most of the towns now included in Wyoming County.

Town meetings were held at Perry Center regularly until about 40 years ago. As the Village of Perry grew in population, there was more or less agitation about changing the meeting place to the village, but because of the small attendance of the villagers at these meetings, the Perry Center people managed to defeat the proposition as regularly as it came to vote. On one occasion, however, prominent citizens of the village succeeded in getting together a sufficient number and carried the measure. After the proposition had been voted upon a number of the villagers arose in their glee and started for Perry, without waiting for the adjournment of the meeting. One of the sly Perry Center politicians, who had been quietly taking in the situation, arose and made a motion that they rescind the previous action. The motion was promptly seconded and carried, much to the chagrin of the remaining Perryites, who were thus forced to journey to the Center for their next annual meeting.

The first tavern at Perry Center was built by Peter Beebe in about the year 1809. It was constructed of logs and stood on the ground now occupied by the residence of Chas. Ball. Mr. Beebe conducted the log tavern a few years, then had it torn down and erected in its place a framed building which he used for many years as a hotel. It was eventually closed, sold and

removed to land owned by Mr. W. O. Newcomb, and by him converted into a dwelling house. On the northwest of the four corners, a framed hotel was erected by a certain Mr. Atwood. This was conducted by various parties as a hotel until 1858. It was subsequently purchased by Mr. Wm. H. Hawley, Sr., and used by him as a dwelling house. The first store at Perry Center was established by Mr. Pierce of Avon, with John D. Langdon as his clerk. The building stood on the southwest of the four corners. Among the early settlers of that vicinity was Samuel Safford, born in Connecticut on Nov. 24th, 1788. In 1810, at the age of 21 years, he went as an American seaman to the Island of Cuba, and served four years before the mast. In 1818 he started for New York and came to Buffalo Corners by way of Bethany, walking a distance of 400 miles, carrying a pack on his back. After securing a place at Buffalo Corners, he returned to Connecticut with his brother-in-law, Sidney Morse, and shortly afterward started again for Perry, with an ox team and a horse ahead, drawing a covered wagon. His family consisted of his wife and two sons—Amos and Harding, aged 4 and 2 years, respectively. They arrived at Buffalo Corners on October 14th, 1818. He afterward erected a small store at the Corners and mail matter was left there in his care. Many a homeseeker was made welcome at his humble abode, and he was urged to build a tavern. He died on October 23d, 1880, aged 92 years, and was buried with his family in Prospect Hill Cemetery at the Center. Buffalo Corners derived its name from the fact that it was in early days a prominent point on the main traveled road between Buffalo and Albany.

Levi Silver, Sr., was born in New England and spent his early married life at Lempster, N. H. After a few years he moved to Sutton, Vt., from whence he came in 1815 to Perry. His brother-in-law, Captain Peter Atwood, whose wife was Abigail Silver, had previously settled near what is now Perry Vil-

lage and about a mile from a beautiful little lake called "Silver Lake," named, no doubt, partly from these settlers as well as because of the clearness of its waters. Captain Atwood drove to Vermont to bring the family, which consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Levi Silver and nine children.

Levi Silver moved in 1820 to the farm in the west part of the town, now owned and occupied by George Humphrey. Here, in 1821, he built the house as it now stands (with the exception of the porches and slight changes inside,) which was used as a tavern for many years. His wife, Susan Nichols Silver, was noted for her famous warmed potatoes, and many a traveler made it a point to reach the Silver Tavern on account of this attraction. At that time, Samuel Perkins of Warsaw drove the stage from Warsaw to Geneseo and put up at this tavern. Mrs. Silver lived to the ripe old age of 99 years.

Many of the early settlers of the Town of Perry, including the Otis, Kingsley, Blanchard, Bacon, Stowell, Dickerson and Wiles families, located in the vicinity of West Perry. Soon a thriving and prosperous community was established. In the late 30's the little hamlet at the corners boasted a school, a general store, a tavern, a shoe shop, a distillery, and a blacksmith and wagon-making establishment. It was also the birthplace of a man who became famous as an artist, whose son has achieved even greater fame than his father. Lemuel M. Wiles was born in West Perry on October 21st, 1826. In 1847 he was graduated from the New York State Normal School, and later he was for ten years director of the College of Fine Arts, Ingham University, LeRoy, N. Y. After leaving that institution he was director of the Art Department of Nashville University, Nashville, Tenn. He was a splendid instructor and was noted as a landscape painter. Prof. Wiles erected a large building on the west side of Silver Lake, which he conducted for several years as a Summer Art School, where instruction was given to

many pupils from a distance as well as from this section of the State. His son, Prof. Irving R. Wiles, is one of the most noted portrait painters in the country, and a prominent artist of New York City.

As Castile was a part of Perry until Feb. 27th, 1821, the following early history of that place is given: The first settlement was begun about 1808 or 1809, by Daniel McKay of Caledonia, who erected a saw mill on Wolf Creek, in the southeastern part of the town. About the same time, Robert Whaley removed from Caledonia and settled on the Allegany Road, a short distance from the center of the present Town of Castile. Mr. Whaley had charge of the saw mill, which was about one-half mile from the mouth of the creek, on the Cotringer tract. This mill was stocked with the fine logs purchased from Mary Jemison, and the lumber was transported to the river's high bank, where there was a slide by which it was conveyed to the river, thence floated down to the older settlements. Mr. Whaley opened a tavern at his place of residence, and for many years the "Whaley Stand" was widely known and patronized by the settlers of this and other parts of the country farther west. In 1816 a severe calamity occurred at this pioneer tavern. Mr. Whaley had removed to his mill and rented the house to a Mr. Eldredge. Several men from LeRoy put up there for the night, when the house took fire and two of the men perished in the flames. The house was rebuilt, and in 1817 Mr. Whaley occupied it, passing away there soon afterward. His widow continued the business for a number of years.

The first settlers at the village were Ziba Hurd and Jonathan Gilbert, who came from Vermont in 1816. Among other early settlers were Clark Sanford, Jacob Kellogg and his two brothers, A. Pond, James Thompson, William Tripp, Dow I. Clute, Charles Tallman, Freeman Sanford, Ebenezer Seymour and Sylvester Derby. A settlement was begun at an early day

in the western part of the town, near Silver Lake, called the "Tallman Settlement." The first birth in the town was that of Jane McRay in 1813; the first death was that of Laura Wilcox in 1815; the first school was taught by Anna Bennett, who came from Vermont in 1816. The first grist mill was built by John Card and Sylvester Lathrop on Lot No. 40 in 1820. The first store was kept by Lemuel Eldridge and M. E. Frost in 1815. In 1821 a postoffice was established, and Mr. Hurd was appointed postmaster. During the same year he was also elected as Castile's first supervisor. The first religious services were held near the south end of Silver Lake in 1816 by Rev. Benjamin Luther of the Baptist denomination. A Christian Society was organized in 1819; a Presbyterian Society in 1824; also a Methodist Society in the same year. The Baptist Society was organized in 1835.

The water power furnished by Wolf Creek, and the abundance of fine timber in the vicinity gave great activity to the lumber business for many years. At one period, not less than 14 saw mills were located on this creek. When Mr. Clark Sanford settled in the town in 1816, Mary Jemison was living near the Genesee River, a mile below St. Helena. Castile Village at that time contained about half a dozen framed houses and a few log ones. Dr. Child kept a small store in the village at that period.

In 1817 a landslide occurred and about 25 acres of the present town of Castile slid into the Genesee River, damming it and causing a permanent change in its course.

Before the village took the name of Castile it was known first as Rickettsville, then as Freemansburg, and later as Oakdale.

To the late Amos Otis, who settled in Perry in 1810, and who kept a diary containing particular record of early events, numerous extracts from which were published in the Wyoming Times of 1856, we are indebted for many of the facts which appear in this history.

Dr. Jabez Ward was the first physician to settle within the Town of Perry. He was a son of Ralph and Lorain Ward and was born on Feb. 3d, 1788. He came here and located just east of Perry Center in 1813. Dr. Ward received his education in the east, being licensed to practice by the Connecticut Medical Society. A pleasant picture of good old Dr. Ward is given by one of the old Perry Center boys—Edward A. Sheldon, Ph. D., founder of the State Normal School at Oswego, N. Y.—in a reminiscence of the old home church and community, written on June 25th, 1889. He said: "Among those who made a strong impression upon my young life was Dr. Jabez Ward, one of the original organizers of the (Perry Center) church. He was our family physician, as he was of nearly all of the families of the town. He was a man of marked and rare traits of character. He may be justly termed a unique man. His duplicate would be hard to find. He was a cheerful, and we might almost say, a jolly man. His best remedies for the sick were not to be found in his saddlebags. I cannot say that I ever enjoyed the latter, with its unswallowable pills and picra, but I was ever willing to endure them for the sake of a visit from one whose presence was such pleasant and wholesome medicine for both the body and soul. He cut an odd figure on his old horse as he threw his arms up and down and his heels out and in, as if in frantic effort to waken an animal that appeared to be in a-jogging slumber. I am sure that both horse and rider took many of their naps on the road. So thoroughly was the horse habituated to a certain gait that any ordinary nap would not in the least interfere with his measured step. The rider often

fell from his horse in his sleep, but he was too much of a philosopher ever to be hurt by such falls. He knew too well the danger of saddle-girths and efforts to save oneself from the effects of a fall, to expose himself by the presence of the former, or by yielding to the natural impulses to rely on the latter for protection. He always went to the ground like a bag of sand, and his saddle with him, with no harm to wind or limb. The only harm that ever followed was the trouble of throwing on the saddle and leading the horse to a fence and remounting. His happy repartee and stories made him an agreeable companion alike to old and young. He was a man of strong affections and deep religious feelings, and his influence for good was felt in every home he visited, as well as in the church in which he presided as an officer.”

The story that is told in connection with the last illness of Dr. Ward portrays the character of his whole life of service and self-sacrifice. In July, 1843, he was seized with pneumonia, a result, perhaps, of exposure on some errand of mercy. The disease progressed, and he laid on his bed in a serious condition. Two young friends were sitting up with him, giving him the needed medicine from time to time. As the hours passed slowly by, the watchers became drowsy and slept in their chairs. A knock came at the door, unheard by the young men, but the ready ear of the sick man heard, and he arose and answered the summons. It was a messenger with an urgent call from one of his patients a mile or so away. Perhaps the Doctor did not realize the seriousness of his own condition. At all events, he left the house, his own watchers still sleeping, and attended the case with his customary success. When he returned to his own bed, he was careful not to disturb the slumbers of the tired young friends. In the morning the doctor was worse, undoubtedly due to his midnight ride, and a day or two later,

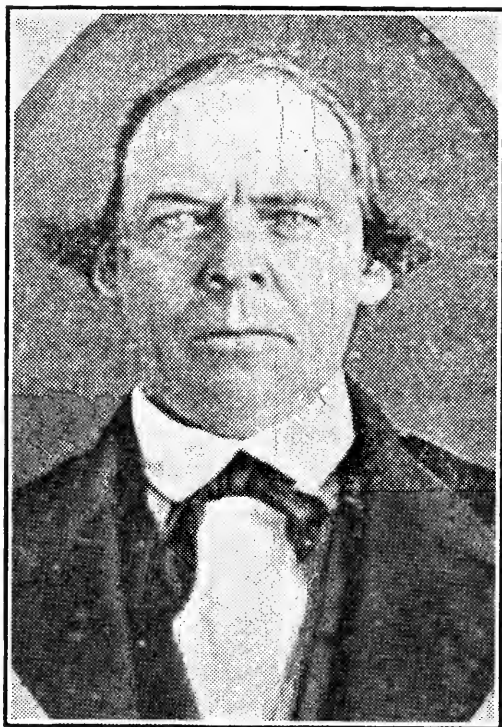
on the 16th of the month, he passed away. His remains were buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery at Perry Center.

Dr. Ward's old account books reveal a life of hard work with very small return. The people whom he served were nearly all poor, hard working citizens. When the difference between the time of his arrival in Perry and the present date is considered, it will not be imagined that the Doctor led an easier life than did the pioneer who leveled the forest and cleared the land. The population at that time was scattered over wide extent of territory. There were a few roads which at the present time would be called miserable, but which at that period were considered good. Sometimes, the Doctor in making his calls was forced to follow a path which had been cut through the woods, and in which the stumps had been left standing; or, perhaps, the way was only marked with an ax cut or a brand upon the trees. At other times he would follow the lighted torch of a settler who had come in the night to guide him to the afflicted household.

The task of procuring medicines was a serious one for the early practitioner. The supply had to be purchased six months or a year in advance, as the pioneer merchant made but one or two trips east in the course of a year. When the supply was exhausted, the Doctor was forced to rely upon the roots, barks, herbs, etc., which grew in the forest.

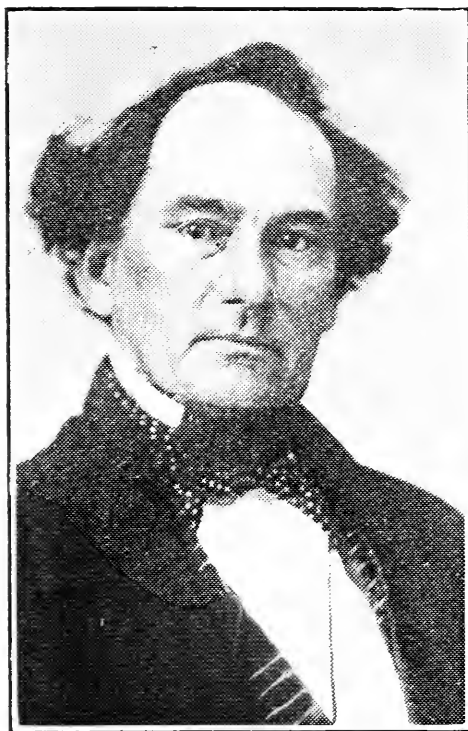
The patient of today has a much easier time in his illness than did his forefathers. Antiseptics were unknown, and a severe surgical operation meant practically certain death. -Nor was there ether, choloroform or other anesthetics for the relief of pain. Bleeding was resorted to for numerous afflictions, such as headaches, fevers, inflammations, etc. We of this later period may congratulate ourselves that the practice of medicine and surgery has been raised to a much higher standard than

was thought possible, due to research and discovery on broader and more scientific educational lines.



Dr. Jacob Nevins was born in Danville, Vt., January 28, 1788. He received his medical education at St. Johnsbury, Vt., coming to Perry later and locating on the farm now owned by his son, Hon. B. A. Nevins. He died on September 28th, 1860.

Dr. Jacob Nevins was the second physician to settle in the town, coming in the year 1816. Dr. Ezra Child was the first physician to locate in the village. He resided here a short time and then emigrated to the State of Indiana. Doctors Otis Higgins and Mason G. Smith were also early practitioners in Perry. Dr. Higgins came in 1818 and practiced his profession in this immediate vicinity until his death in 1844.



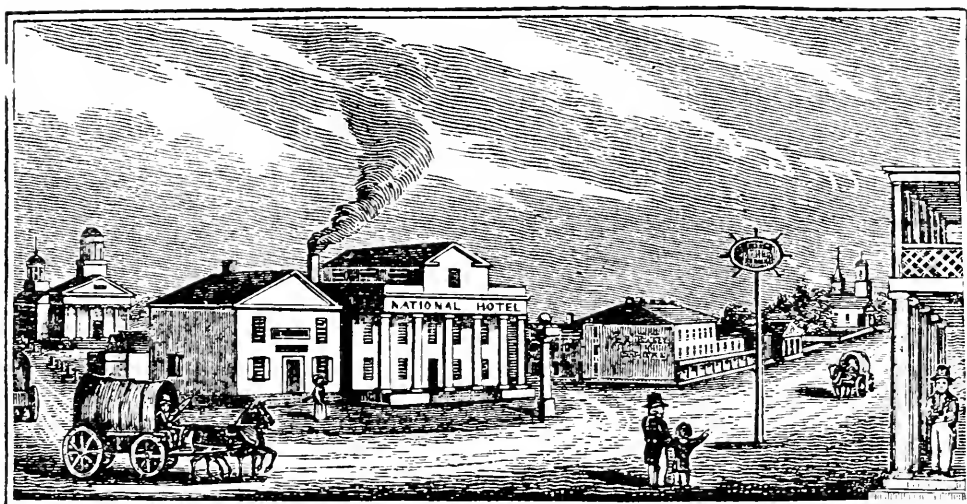
Geo. L. Keeney, M. D., was a son of Josiah and Phoebe Keeney. He was born in 1809 and died on Dec. 31st, 1869. His parents were natives of Conneticut and located in Wyoming County, Pennsylvania, in the latter part of the 18th century. The doctor graduated from Yale College in 1832, and during that year entered upon the practice of his profession in Perry, where, in 1835, he married Ann, daughter of William and Hannah Dolbeer.

CHAPTER IV

Perry Three-quarters of a Century Ago—Days of the Mail Coach— Manufacturing Concerns and Business Places—Early Educational Institutions—Musical Organizations.

Between the years of 1810 and 1820, the population of the town increased rapidly, particularly after the war with England had closed. The next decade, from 1820 to 1830, showed still more rapid progress in all respects. The whole of Western New York was now well filled, comparatively speaking. It was during this period that the Erie Canal was completed. The rich and fertile "Genesee Country" had become well known. The extreme hardships of the pioneer had entirely passed. The facilities for travel by the completion of the canal were greatly improved, and a more ready sale of the products of the soil resulted in bringing from New England and the eastern and middle sections of New York a larger number of people than at any previous time. During the next ten years, from 1830 to 1840, the largest population in Perry's rural districts was shown, and it has never since been exceeded. Although, since that period the rural population has diminished, we have since 1840 constantly improved our farms and buildings, beautified our homes, increased our religious and educational privileges and facilities, added to the comforts of life and gained in position, influence and general prosperity.

Now let us take a glance at the Village of Perry and see it as it was about three-quarters of a century ago, between the years of 1840 and 1845. At that time Perry possessed neither a bank, a railroad, a telegraph nor a telephone line; but people listened daily for the toot of the horn of the mail coach, as drawn by four horses it dashed through the streets and finally



South view in Perry village.

The above picture is a reproduction from an old gazeteer of the State of New York, published in the early 40's, and is a view from the south, looking north. It shows Lake street at the extreme left, also the M. E. Church and District Union School. The church at that time faced a road connecting Lake and Covington streets. The "National Hotel" shown is the building removed for the Wise block and remodeled into the Hotel Covington. The building at the left of the hotel is the present Record office, removed and remodeled, from the site of the Garrison (now Austin) block. These two buildings are among the oldest frame business buildings in the village. As may be noted, there were at that time no buildings between the hotel and the Bailey block, now occupied by Roche's grocery. The Presbyterian and Baptist churches are shown in the distance. At the extreme right may be seen the porch of the hotel conducted by A. B. Walker. It was destroyed by fire in 1857 and its site is now occupied by The Tavern.

came to a stop in front of the old National Hotel, kept by Thomas Livingston, near the corner of Main and Lake streets.

By the mail coach people found a means to visit other towns or receive and send money, goods, etc. J. A. McElwain was the proprietor of the line which ran from Perry to Canandaigua, eastward, passing through Moscow, Geneseo, Livonia, Richmond and Bristol, at that time all of them being

places of considerable size. A line also ran from Perry to Buffalo, by way of Buffalo Corners, west, via Orangeville, Sheldon, Wales, Aurora and Hamburg; one from Perry to Jamestown, via Pike and Ellicottville. The Warsaw and Batavia line passed through Wyoming and Bethany and connected at Batavia with the New York Central Railroad. There was also a mail line to Sardinia via Gainesville, Orangeville, and Java. Those were the days that made the hearts of the tavern-keepers rejoice, for business was business, and there was plenty of it. Between Castile and Geneseo were 11 taverns, all well patronized, and "full every night" was a common expression. As one travels the highways today in almost any direction, he may observe the buildings whose peculiar appearance marks them as being taverns of the early days, now remodeled to make them as nearly as possible into the modern residence.

Following is a list of the business places conducted at the time of which we write. Of groceries there were five, conducted respectively by H. A. Barton, R. Stratton, B. B. Hicks, Jivah Higgins, and Hicks & Bailey. The dry goods firms also numbered five, being two more than at the present time, viz: Parsons & Clark, John H. Bailey, G. L. Davis, Rufus H. Smith and S. W. Merrill & Sons.

Aplin & Owen and F. J. & N. Bullard manufactured harness and saddlery. Mr. Bullard conducted his business for over 30 years from this time.

Tailors were plenty, and prices for fashionable goods were much lower than at the present time. The list of tailors comprised J. L. Wilson, Charles Wing, Hutchinson & Rockwell, and J. B. Farmer.

The boot and shoe dealers were John Ten Eyek, E. Higgins & Son, W. J. Chapin & Co., and Peter Alberty.

C. O. Buddington manufactured hats and caps. One of the hats made by him is on exhibition at the Log Cabin near the Walker grounds at Silver Lake, and bears only a slight resemblance to the modern styles.

The milliners were in full force, and had representatives in the persons of Mrs. Catherine Bayne, Mrs. Polly Higgins, Miss Martha Shearman, and Z. & S. Bullard. Miss Shearman continued her business in the same building, on the site of the present Sage garage, until about the year 1880.

The physicians were: Z. W. Joslyn, Mason G. Smith (who also occupied the position of Justice of the Peace and issued prescriptions and subpoenas at the same time;) G. L. Keeney and Otis Higgins.

The cabinet makers and furniture dealers were: David A. Shirley, Hooper & Buttre, and A. S. Horton. Mr. Buttre remained in business until about 1885.

John Carr and W. and Wm. Dolbeer carried on the business of carriage and wagon making.

Hicks & Bailey and A. Otis & Son managed the two foundries and did a vast amount of custom work.

Of lawyers, Perry had a large number, the legal business of that period being of greater proportion than at present. We find the names of I. N. Stoddard, J. J. Pettit, Wm. Mitchell (who was also Surrogate;) L. A. Hayward and Levi Gibbs.

E. C. Pease was a barber who advertised as follows:

“Those gents who would be shaved in a trice,
And have their hair cut and combed very nice;
Who would have all done with most perfect ease,
Will not go amiss to call on E. C. Pease.”

Wm. Taylor and Henry E. Homan attended to the butcher business and had first-class markets on Main street.

E. M. Kimball and James Huntington sold watches, clocks, jewelry and accordeons.

Stephen Sherman attended to house and sign painting. Josiah Andrews had a land office. David Mitchell sold drugs and medicines. A. B. Waller conducted a livery stable. A. D. Smith attended to Uncle Sam's affairs at the postoffice, with Henry N. Page as deputy. Marcus D. Smith attended to carriage painting and trimming, and was considered the "boss trimmer" in this section.

Perry had four flouring mills, viz: The one known as "The Lower Mill," because of its location on the outlet, was operated by Hatch & Bailey; the second mill, operated by N. Severence & Co.; the third mill by Rufus H. Smith; and where Tomlinson's mill now is, E. B. Sacket with George L. Davis in charge as agent, conducted the business.

Perry had a curious genius in those days in the person of Levi S. Mitchell, who was better and more familiarly known as "Corporal" Mitchell, and who conducted a small restaurant on what was called "The Sweeney plan." His capital was so limited that he was compelled to borrow funds of his younger patrons whenever the traveling oyster vendor came on his monthly trip. Now, Judge Rufus H. Smith, who was his landlord, would early discover that the "Corporal" had made a raise among the boys and laid in his stock of bivalves, and quietly giving the word to his friends to assemble, the Judge would walk in and call for oysters. After disposing of all that the "Corporal" had in stock, the Judge would tell him to "Chalk it down on rent," thus demolishing the latter's bank account and business at one fell swoop, while the young men who had furnished "the needful" were compelled to take buckwheat cakes or boiled eggs for their pay, instead of the choice oysters at "one-and-six" per plate, for which their mouths had watered.

T. Prawl and Philander Simmons conducted two extensive blacksmith shops and had a thriving business.

One of the largest tanneries in the western part of the State was the one at Perry, operated by W. J. Chapin, Jairus Moffett and ——— Brown.

Elisha Briggs managed the patent picket fence factory down the "Creek Road," as it was called.

Rufus H. Smith owned the carding mill, and George Colburn acted as manager, with 15 hands in their employ.

Perry boasted of three saw mills, one owned by R. H. Smith and operated by Charles Hope and Aaron Axtell, Sr., one by James Shearman, at the upper dam; and one by Ashall Shaw at the middle dam.

Ed. Root conducted a livery stable and toy store, and daily created more fun than all of the clowns in the circus business could manufacture in a whole season.

Bailey & Hatch managed quite an extensive flaxseed oil mill, using for that purpose a three-story building and employing seven men. Davis & Sacket had a large distillery and ashery at the middle dam. Two cooper shops were doing business here, one operated by Beriah Brown and the other by Luther Bacheldor, each having a large business.

Perry had a select school kept by Mrs. Harriet Massette, also an academic school on Covington street, with J. C. Vandercook as principal, and Miss R. Grisewood as assistant. Their terms of tuition were very moderate, as may be noted by one of their advertisements, from which we quote: "Tuition per term of 11 weeks: In the First Department, for Spelling, Reading and Rudiments of Geography, with varied oral exercises in

various other branches...\$1.50. The above, with Rudiments of Grammar, Arithmetic, Orthography, etc...\$2.00. The above, with advanced classes in Grammar, Geography, Arithmetic, Composition and Penmanship...\$2.50. In the Higher Department: For all common English Branches, with Composition, Declamation, Natural Philosophy, History, Rhetoric, Logic and Book-Keeping...\$3.00. The above, with Intellectual Philosophy, Moral Science, Chemistry, Astronomy, Algebra, Surveying, Geometry, Rudiments of Latin and French Languages, etc...\$4.00. Lessons will also be given in Sketching, Landscape, Oriental and Mezzotinto Drawing and Painting on terms to suit the convenience of those wishing to take the lessons. Mr. Vandercook will also organize classes at the request of mechanics, clerks, apprentices, and any others, to give them instruction at any time they may choose, aside from the regular hours for school, as his principal wish is to make himself truly useful in his calling and benefit all with whom he may associate.’’

There was also a select school kept by Miss Harriet Hammond; and a district school with T. S. Loomis, principal, who had four assistants. This school had an enrollment of 350 pupils.

A very popular society, known as ‘‘The Perry Musical Association,’’ was in existence at this time, with the following named officers: President, James McEntee; First Vice-President, Alanson Lapham; Second Vice-President, Gilbert Mitchell; Secretary, E. G. Billings.

In May, 1844 a terrible hail storm occurred here, which practically ruined all of the crops. Stones weighing one ounce each were picked up on Main street.

The Countryman was being published in Perry at this period. A perusal of a copy of this paper reveals an almost entire absence of local items, the greater part of the paper being made up of advertisements and foreign news. The Countryman was a six column sheet and contained but nine columns of reading matter, being in marked contrast to the local papers of the present, with their many columns of live community news and interesting miscellany. And yet the patrons of The Countryman were glad to pay \$3.00 per year for even such a paper as that. The editor, Mr. D. S. Curtis, called on his patrons to either "pay postage on communications or get them **franked**, as we cannot stand the expense." The joke will be seen when it is understood that persons could send all the mail they chose and were not compelled to prepay postage, the following being the rates of postage charged at the time: Under 30 miles, 6c; over 30 miles and under 80, 10c; over 80 miles and under 150, 12½c; over 150 and under 400, 18¾c; over 400 miles, 25c; with double rates for every additional sheet of paper, without regard to the weight. As a consequence, no envelopes were used, the letter being folded, and sealed with a wafer, and directed on the back.

Horse racing was one of the most popular sports of the early 40's. At this period and until the construction of the race track at the fair grounds, races were held on South Main street, the course being from the top of the "Universalist Hill" to Needham's woods. That horse racing was considered a man's sport by the local editor, at least, is the conclusion necessarily reached from the following which we copy in its entirety from the issue of the American Citizen, published in Perry by Mitchell & Lewis, dated Sept. 27th, 1837.

"We perceive by handbills in circulation that our Gainesville (Silver Springs) neighbors are to be treated by one of

those **schools of public morals**, with something a little **extra**, at least in our region.

“After describing certain regulations, the handbill informs us that ‘Convenient seats will be arranged for the **LADIES.**’ **Ladies at a horse race! ! !** Astonishing! ! Who could have thought that we had arrived at such a pitch of refinement? But we forgot—they had a **dancing school** in that vicinity last winter.”

The following statistics of Perry Village for the year 1845 were compiled at the close of that year by the late Col. Wm. Dolbeer :

Population within the Corporation....Male, 522 Female, 549

Value of Manufactured Products—

Four Grist Mills	\$65,880.00
Three Saw Mills	1,992.00
Oil Mill	2,400.00
Tannery	14,500.00
Ashery	1,300.00
Two Foundries	10,115.00
Fulling Mill	1,175.00
Carding Mill	4,000.00

Total	\$101,362.00
General Stores	8
Boot and Shoe Stores	1
Drugs and Book Store	1
Groceries	5
Taverns	2
Churches	4
Buildings	150

CHAPTER V

Early Industrial Development—Distilleries and Asheries Important Features—Foundry, Flax Mill and “Clothiery” Were Other Industries.

When the pioneers first came to Perry, the land was covered with a fine growth of timber, which, owing to the scarcity of mills and roads, was practically valueless in its natural state; but by gathering the ashes that remained after burning the timber and putting them through a certain process, the settlers manufactured black salts, which found a ready market at the nearest settlement. The manufacture of potash, at that time commonly called “black salts,” was the principal source of revenue for the settlers until they could prepare their land and harvest their crops.

At an early date in the town's history, David Thorp, Samuel Howard, Jason Lathrop, and Langon, Leonard & Sanger started asheries at Perry Center, and from that time most of the farmers discontinued making potash and sold their ashes to these concerns. Mr. Lathrop's ashery, which was erected on Lot No. 5, was in existence for many years.

During the first few years, the settlers raised only a sufficient amount of grain for their own needs, as there was no market nearby, and the cost of transportation was too great to convey it any long distance. About the year 1820, Samuel Howard erected a distillery on Lot No. 17 at Perry Center, and this acted as an incentive to the farmers to raise more grain, as the spirit into which the distillery converted it could be transported at much less expense. Benjamin Gardner built a distillery in the village in about 1822. Still another was erected at West Perry about the year 1825. The completion of the

Erie Canal opened the Eastern markets to farm products and rendered distilling unprofitable, and the industry struggled for a time against the inevitable, but finally yielded to necessity and succumbed.

As stated elsewhere, John Hammersley constructed what is now known as the Whipple dam, in 1811. In the year 1813 he erected a grist mill and a saw mill. The grist mill was situated on the south side of the dam, just below the present location of Wm. Whipple's shop. In 1817 Mr. Hammersley sold the grist mill to Childs & Gardner, Mr. Childs subsequently selling his interest to Mr. Gardner, who continued to operate the mill until 1828. Later it was converted into a wooden dish mill and pails, tubs, bowls, etc., were made there for a number of years. It finally fell into disuse and was torn down.

The saw mill which had been built on the north side of the dam, was also sold to Mr. Gardner and was operated by him until his death in 1834, when it passed into the hands of James N. Sherman, who erected a new saw mill on the same site. A few years later, Mr. Sherman sold the mill to Hon. Rufus H. Smith. After a period of use it was converted into a wooden pump factory, operated by Brazilla Howe, who was familiarly known among the citizens at "Pump" Howe. This establishment was in operation until about the year 1860.

In 1818, Wm. Wiles built a grist mill near the present site of Mark Phelps' residence on Gardeau street, on the east bank of the outlet. The machinery, or gearing, used in this mill was made entirely of wood. This mill changed hands several times and was used for a number of years. It finally went into disuse, and in 1860 was destroyed by fire.

Although a considerable quantity of the products manufactured by these early promoters of industry was sold to the numerous immigrants who were taking up land in the Genesee

Country, as well as to those who were striking out for a more distant Western home, the greater portion was sold in the east. It was impracticable for each manufacturer to deliver his products to Albany, and at length an extensive system of transportation was established. Experience demonstrated that one teamster could manage six horses as well as two, and thus reduce the cost. Six horse teams, with harness to match, were no trifling affairs in those days. The horses were furnished mostly by the Dutch settlers of the Mohawk Valley, and were noted for their solidity and strength. Most of the wagons were covered and sufficiently strong to carry eight to ten tons. The driver rode the "off" wheel horse and used one guiding rein only. Thus equipped, the "Dutch ship," as it was called, struck out for Albany with its cargo of flour, potash and whiskey as freight, to be loaded on the return trip with all sorts of machinery and merchandise. Thirty days were allowed for a round trip, although in good going the time was shortened a few days, while in the Spring and Fall it was not uncommon to be out forty days.

About the year 1822, a foundry was erected by Harvey Prichard on Water street, on the west bank of the outlet, a short distance south of Walnut street, and was used for the manufacture of iron castings, principally plow points and sleigh shoes. Mr. Prichard had a potash kettle lined with clay, and melted his iron with charcoal. It has been said that his plow points were so hard that they would outlast any two that are on the market today. Prior to his venture into the foundry business, he had been a flax spinner and a rope maker, but had found that there was not enough demand for such commodities among the residents to make their manufacture profitable. Although considered a genius at whatever work he undertook, he was inclined to neglect his business, preferring his dog and gun to his work, consequently he was not as successful in his

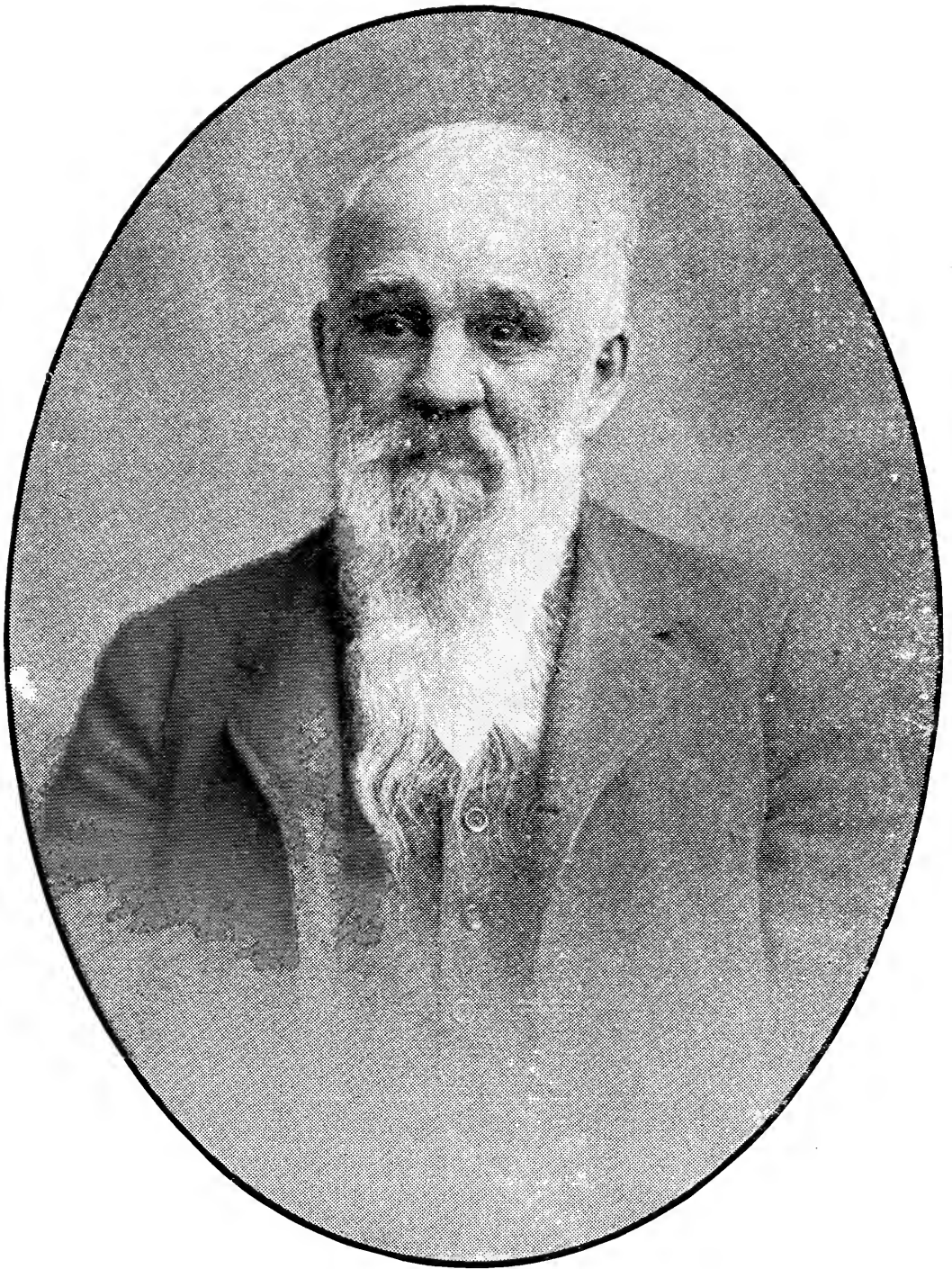
various enterprises as his talents would have permitted. In 1842 the foundry was sold to A. Otis & Son, who continued the business for several years, after which it was remodeled into a flax mill and operated under the management of Wm. T. Hamlin. Tow, which was used extensively in upholstering, was manufactured here for several years. A part of the old foundry was used for a time as a cooper shop.



RICHARD T. TUTTLE

Born on September 30th, 1830. Died
on April 27th, 1896.

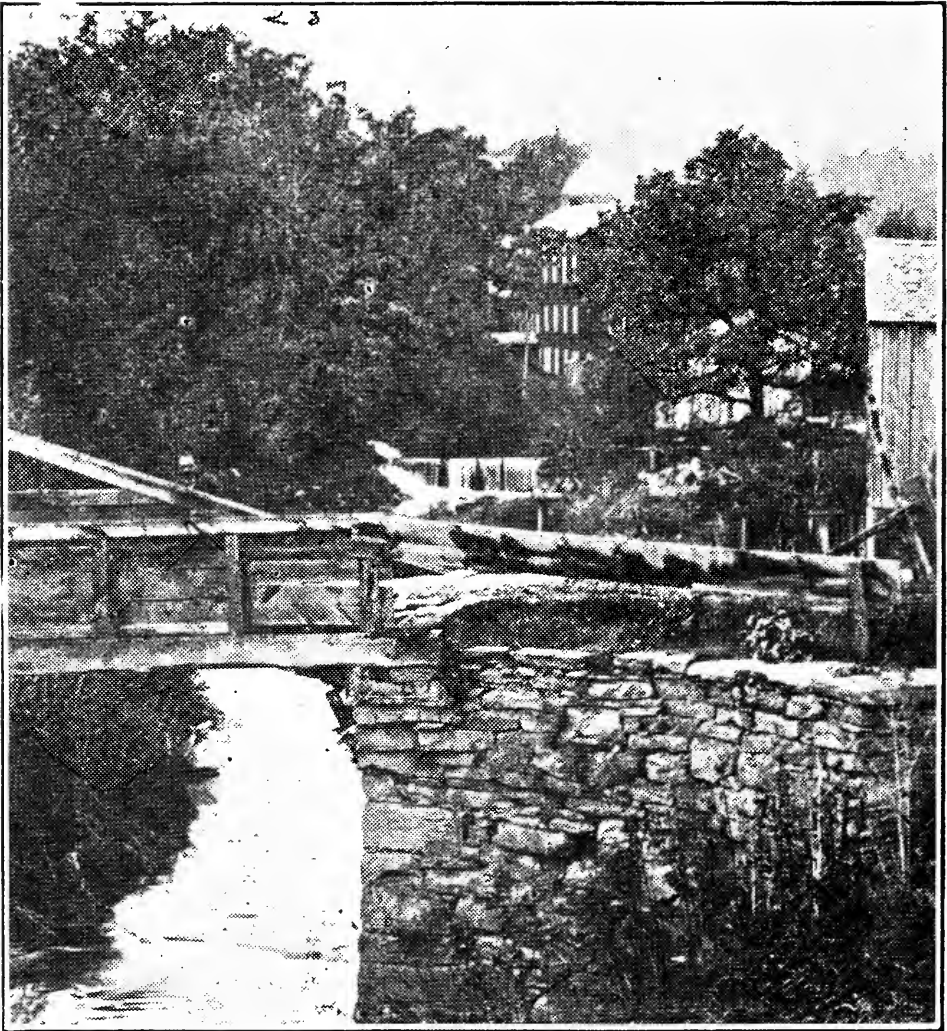
A cloth factory, or "clothiery" as it was called, and a saw mill were built in the village about 1822. The saw mill was afterward enlarged and is still in operation, under the manage-



Born Oct. 10, 1825

DAVID ANDRUS

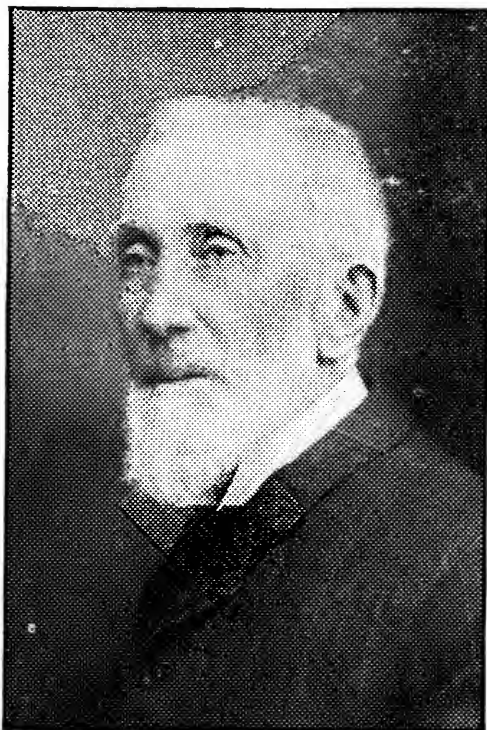
Died July 9, 1909



The above picture shows in the foreground the old wooden bridge on Gardeau street, which was replaced in 1883 by the present culvert. The view is taken from the north, looking south, and shows the Wylie woolen mill in the distance. The mill stood at the rear of The Tavern, a short distance north of Andrus' planing mill. The man on the bridge is James Hildum.

ment of the Andrus Estate. This is the oldest established industry in the town, the lumber business having been carried on there continuously for a period of 92 years. Among those who have operated this mill we find the names of Hon. Rufus H. Smith, Edmund M. Bills, E. M. Read & Co., (Jerome Allen,) E. M. Read & Co., (R. T. Tuttle and James Wyckoff,) Read & Andrus, and David Andrus.

The "clothiery" was converted into a woolen mill about the year 1856 by John Post. He was succeeded by Henry N.



JAMES WYLIE

Born at Elderslie, Scotland, in 1826.

Died on June 29th, 1906.

Page, a Mr. Green, who later operated the Green woolen mill at Pike, then by Wylie & Morton, and later by James Wylie.

While conducted by Mr. Wylie, the Perry Woolen Factory, as it was known, employed a capital of \$20,000, contained 216 spindles, five looms, and manufactured annually about 16,000 yards of cloth. The mill was operated continuously until its destruction by fire on August 7th, 1880.

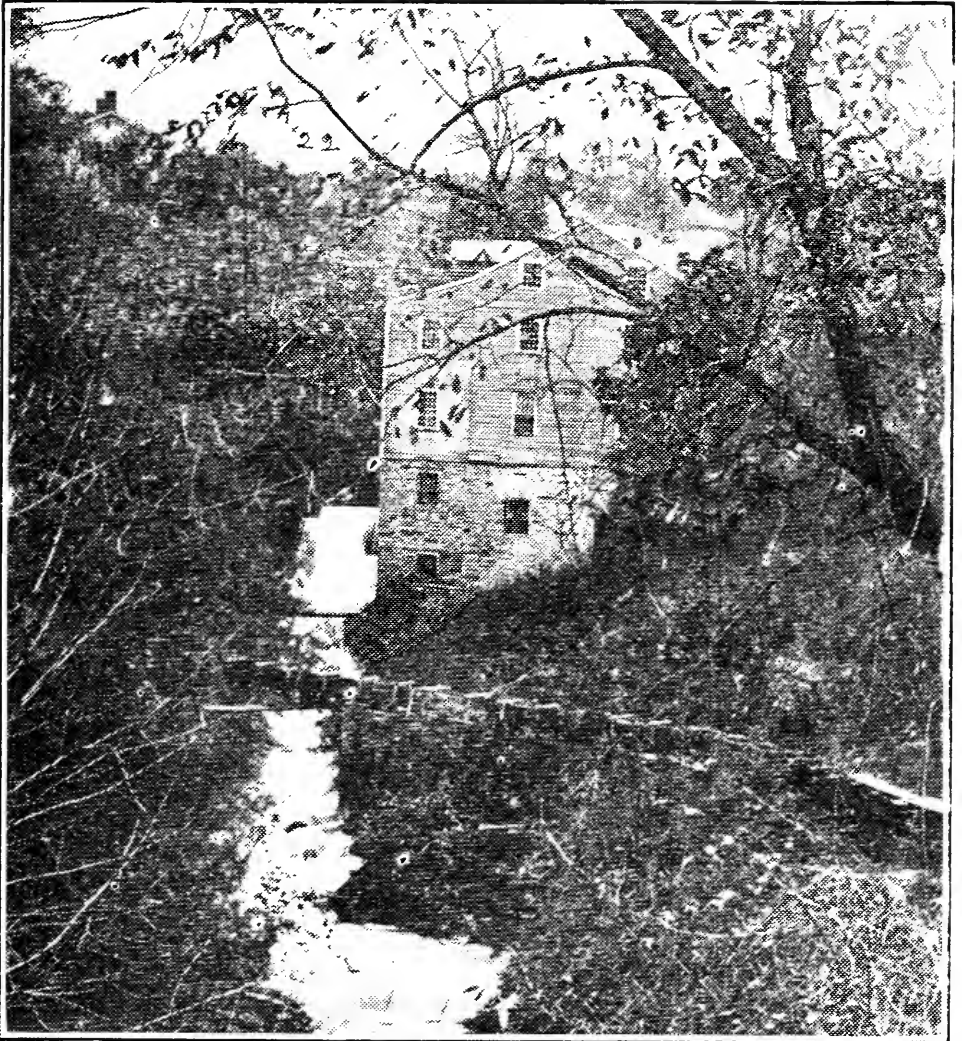
In 1824, Bailey & Hatch erected an oil mill, a short distance below the Prichard foundry. Linseed oil was manufactured here until 1848. This firm also owned a grist mill which they had purchased in 1827.

Another clothiery was established about the year 1827 by Wheeler & Buddington. It was located on Water street, a short distance from Gardeau street. Mr. Buddington also carried on an extensive hat business in connection with the clothiery. The factory was afterward converted into a grist mill and was operated successively by N. Severance, Palmer & Atwood, John Richmond, and then by his son-in-law, Wm. Hutton. The building was torn down in 1898. The old roadway which led to this mill may still be seen, leading off from Water street.

A short distance below the buildings of the Perry Knitting Co., another grist mill was erected about the year 1819 by a certain Mr. Bailey, a former resident of LeRoy. Before falling into disuse, this mill changed ownership no less than 18 different times, as follows: Bailey, (LeRoy;) C. P. Bailey & Samuel Hatch; Calvin P. Bailey; Brown & Grisewood; Bailey, Brown & Co.; Robert Grisewood; Calvin P. Bailey; Brown & Frost; G. Taylor; Anson D. Smith; Robert Grisewood; Grisewood & Bradfield; Bradfield & Bolton; Bradfield & Loomis; White & Harrington; Cornish & Chase; L. P. Cornish; J. B. Hutton.

The first tannery to be erected in the town was established near Simmons' Corners by John Olin about the year 1817, and a good business was carried on until 1841, when the tannery was closed. The second tannery to be erected was built about 1820

by Samuel and Henry Phoenix on the present site of Herry's blacksmith shop on Covington street in the rear of the former Bailey (now Hatch) block. At this time a plank road was laid over the creek (which flows under Main street through a cul-



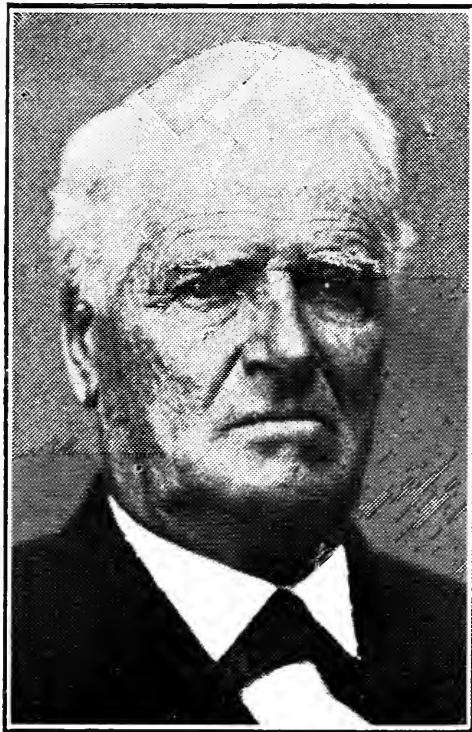
The above picture shows the former Richmond Mill referred to. The old sluice-way leading to Hamlin's Flax Mill is shown in the foreground. The view is taken from the north, looking toward the south.

vert,) for the convenience of farmers in unloading their tanbark, which was used in the process of manufacturing leather. Some two or three years later another tannery was constructed by Willard J. Chapin. This was situated on the Crocker property on Leicester street. In 1832 the two firms consolidated under the name of Phoenix, Chapin & Co., and used the Phoenix property as their main factory. The following year they removed into a building in the ravine of the outlet, near the present lo-



WILLARD J. CHAPIN—Born on March 6th, 1791; died on July 28th, 1852. He was a veteran of the War of 1812 and Postmaster of Perry in the year 1838. Mr. Chapin was interested in lake property and owned what was known as "Chapin's Landing." He also laid out the present road that runs from the Allegany road to the lake, past the water works standpipe. Mr. Chapin was a prominent member of the Baptist Church, of which he was clerk for a number of years.—(From an old pencil drawing.)

cation of the electric power plant belonging to the Perry Knitting Co. Following the dissolution of this firm in 1837, the Phoenix brothers removed to Wisconsin, where they founded the town of Delevan. Then a new firm was organized in Perry with Willard J. Chapin, Jairus Moffett and a certain Mr. Brown as members. A son of Mr. Chapin (G. C.) succeeded this firm and continued the business until about the year 1872. The building was then converted into a spoke factory and conducted as such a few years by David Chase.



JAIRUS MOFFETT—Prominent in the early days of Perry; was elected Sheriff of Wyoming County in November, 1852, and served three years.

About the year 1828, John Gregg, erected a foundry on the site occupied by the stone building that is now a part of the Robeson cutlery factory. On November 24th, 1837, he sold the

property to Ellery Hicks. Within one year or two following the sale, a severe electrical storm visited this section and the building was struck by lightning and burned. It was a serious financial loss to Mr. Hicks, who did not possess sufficient capital to erect and equip another plant to take its place. With the double purpose in view of expressing their sympathy for Mr. Hicks in his misfortune and of saving the industry to the town, a public meeting was called. It resulted in a day being set for the farmers to come with their teams and wagons, a general agreement having been made to draw all of the cobblestones necessary to construct a much larger and better building than the one that had been destroyed. Stone masons, carpenters, and men from the various walks of life contributed their services, some for a day, others for a longer period and in a comparatively short time, the stone building that is now a part of the Robeson cutlery factory had been completed, practically without cost to Mr. Hicks. Such was the public spirit of the citizens of the Town of Perry in the late 30's, which we are pleased to state is characteristic of the present day, as has been frequently manifested and is evidenced by many public and private improvements.

Common castings had been produced in the old foundry, but after beginning operations in the new building, Mr. Hicks greatly increased his output and extended the business by adding several different lines to his list of manufactured products. Among the articles made by him were grist, saw and fanning mill castings, hollowware stoves, plows, threshing machines, scales, etc. The business was then known as the "Perry Steam Furnace." In 1844, Mr. Hicks took Walter S. Bailey (son of Calvin P. Bailey) into partnership. Mr. Bailey was succeeded in 1848 by Rufus H. Smith. In 1851, Hicks & Smith sold the business to Messrs. Swift & Bacheldor, Mr. Hicks and family removing to Battle Creek, Mich. In 1859, Swift & Bacheldor



The above picture shows the former Watson (now Commiskey) block on the corner of Main street and Borden avenue. The small frame buildings at the right were the Postoffice occupied by Jason Lathrop, Postmaster, and the late Dr. Traver. The open space at the left is now occupied by the Caswell block. Next is the Cole Hotel, conducted by Tyler Cole; next is "Jack" Bolton's meat market with a Democratic "liberty pole" in front; Buttre's cabinet shop and the old Foundry that is now a part of the Robeson Cutlery factory. The small frame buildings stood on what is now the entrance to Borden avenue.

were in turn succeeded by Beardsley & Ensign, who changed the name of the concern to the "Perry Iron Works," and in addition to the above mentioned products, manufactured wheel cultivators, land rollers, harrows and other agricultural implements. In 1865 Mr. Ensign retired, and Jerome Edgerly took his place in the firm. These gentlemen purchased the dam situated at the rear of the building and constructed a water pit at a cost of \$2000. In the Spring of 1867 Mr. Beardsley sold his share to Elnathan Millspaugh, and the new firm was known as Edgerly, Millspaugh & Co. In November, 1867, M. E. Benedict purchased the interest of Jerome Edgerly and they were succeeded by Millspaugh & Wheeler in 1868, this firm in turn being succeeded by R. W. Benedict & Co., who continued the business until 1874, when it was sold to M. H. Olin & Co. The members of this company, in addition to M. H. Olin, were: R. W. Benedict and Robert Stainton. In 1875 Messrs. Benedict and Stainton retired and were succeeded by R. T. Tuttle, Truman Olin and James Wyckoff, Mr. M. H. Olin retaining his interest and the firm being known as Wyckoff, Tuttle & Olin. This concern manufactured the Royce reapers and mowers, and employed about 70 men, producing about 1200 machines annually and the business amounting to about \$200,000 per year. In 1882, Truman and M. H. Olin sold their interest in the reaper works and took over the hardware business that had been conducted by Wyckoff, Tuttle & Olin. Wyckoff & Tuttle continued the manufacture of reapers and mowers, Mr. Tuttle in 1885 selling a part of his interest to three sons of Mr. Wyckoff, the firm being known as Wyckoff, Tuttle & Co. In 1889 Mr. Tuttle retired, selling his interest to Wyckoff & Co., consisting of Mr. James Wyckoff and his sons Frank H., Edwin M., and James N. The manufacture of a self-binder was begun in 1884, to fill the demand for a machine that would meet the requirements of progress. Mr. James Wyckoff died in 1890. The Wyckoff Harvester Company was formed in 1893, when J. N.

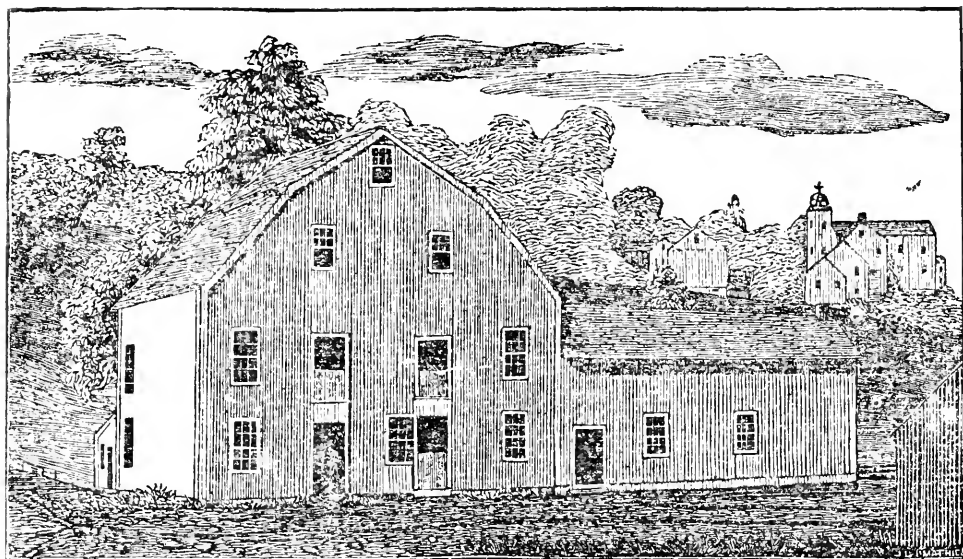
Wyckoff purchased the interest of his brothers Frank H. and Edwin M., and in the Fall of 1894 the plant was removed to Jamestown, where it was conducted for about three years.

The second dam on the outlet, which is now known as the "Tomlinson dam," was constructed by Benjamin Gardner in 1826. Prior to this, he had erected a distillery, an ashery and a cooper shop in the immediate vicinity. Mr. Monroe Lambert managed the distillery for a number of years. In 1828 the grist mill now owned by Tomlinson & Son was erected by Mr. Gardner, and the one which he had purchased in 1817 from John Hammersley was converted into the wooden dish mill previously mentioned. After Mr. Gardner's death in 1834, J. H. Bennett took charge of the mill and continued the business until 1844, when this, the ashery, distillery and other property formerly owned by Mr. Gardner, were sold to E. B. Sackett.

Regarding the activities of distilleries and the conditions prevailing during the early period, the following excerpts from an article written by Rev. John Stainton and published in the Silver Lake Sun in 1870, may be of interest as compared with conditions at the present time. He said:

"Of the whiskey manufactories there were two in the village and one at West Perry. Then, indeed, did King Alcohol reign without a rival. Whiskey was a staple article of trade. Every merchant and grocer sold it, and nearly every customer bought and used it; and it was, like potash, a prime article of export. Such was the fashion of the day, the public custom of the times. Perhaps it may be inferred from our description of the primitive state of society that we all loved the liquor and were a settlement of drunkards. Not exactly so; still, nearly everybody drank. No temperance organizations then existed, such as we now have. Drunkards lived and died as such, and the marvel is that there were not many more, for tippling was the general rule. Drinking was no disparagement of character unless marked by excess. This frequently occurred from those who came up from Gardeau and Smoky Hollow. They gener-

ally had a fight when they came up to town, and made the night hideous by their screaming and bawling when they started for home."

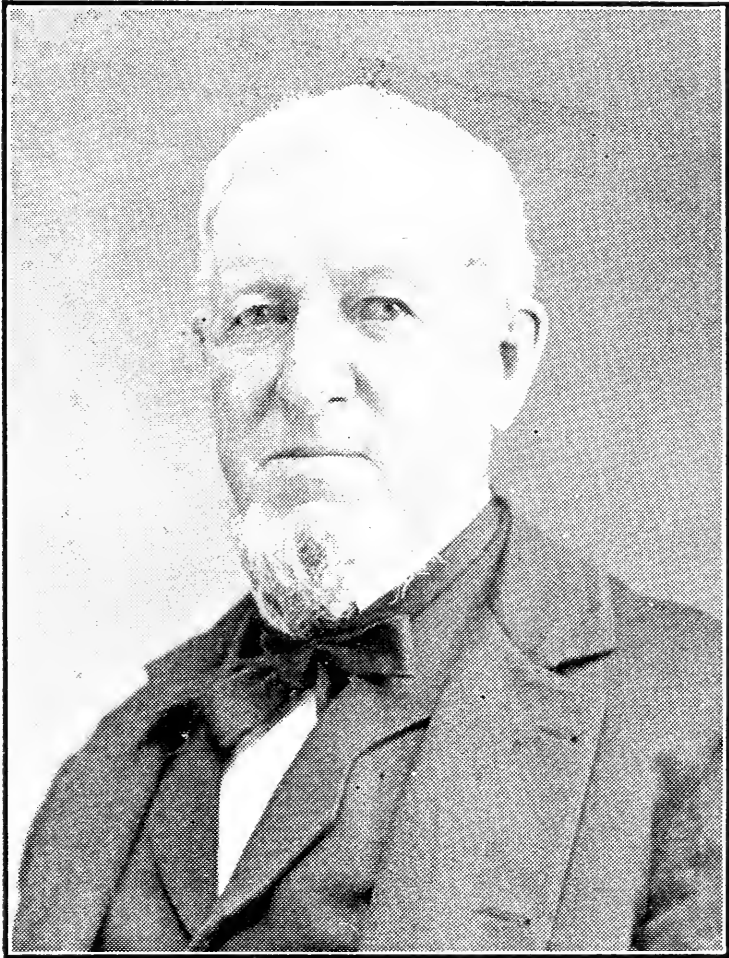


"The Countryman," published in Perry by Daniel Curtis, in its issue of July 25th, 1844, contained the above picture and following explanation:

"Above is an engraving (by a young man in this office) of a view from the southwest angle, of a large and superior Flouring Mill just completed in this village. It is 60x50 feet, three stories high, with lofty attic, and containing four runs of stones. The first mill on this site was built by Benjamin Gardner, and the present one by George L. Davis. We shall be glad to have other persons owning manufactories, mills and other property, get drawings and engravings of their premises, that we may insert them. The expense is but trifling, and will be accurately done by the young artist in this office."

Mr. Sackett did not take active management of these industries, but continued them through his agent, George L. Davis. During 1844 the grist mill was considerably enlarged and much new machinery was installed. All of the new castings were manufactured at the local foundry operated by Hicks & Bailey. The grist mill has since been owned successively by: Rufus

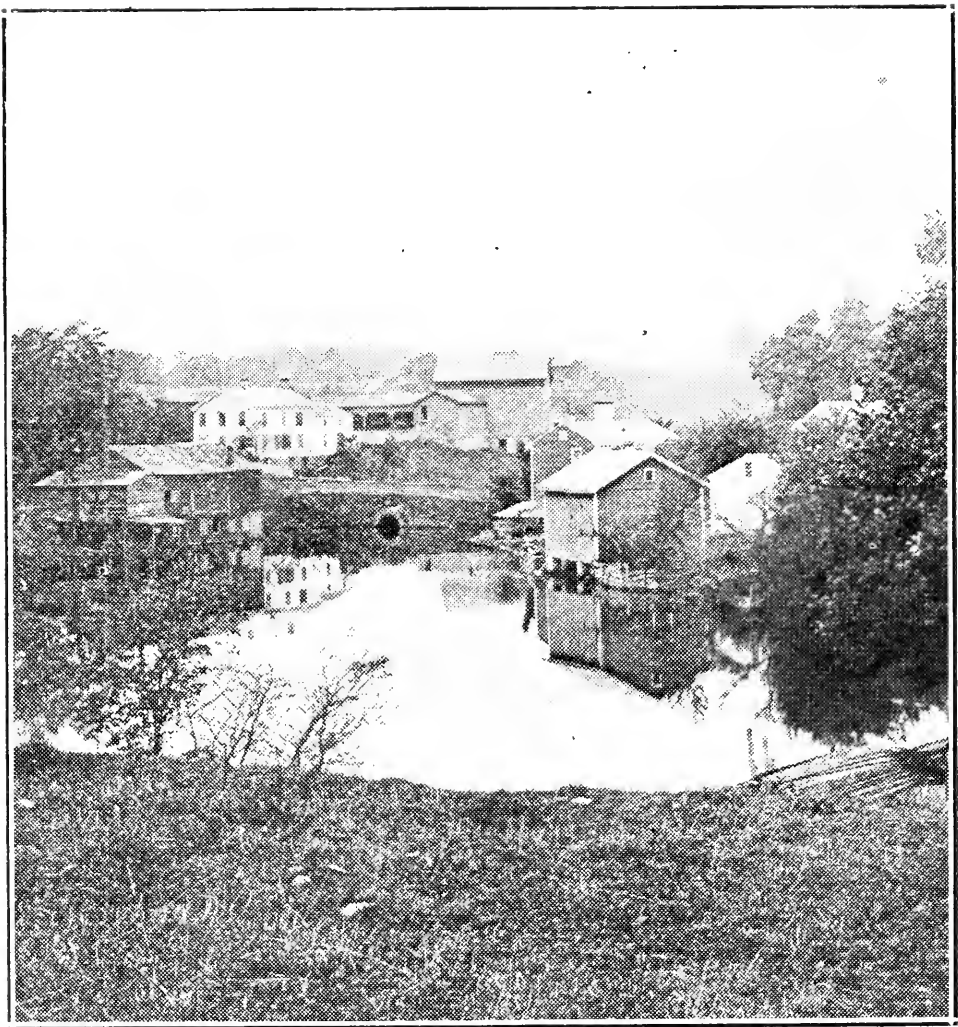
Smith, George Taylor, Taylor & Nobles, James and Charles Nobles, Nobles & Tomlinson. In 1878, Mr. George Tomlinson purchased the interest of C. W. G. Nobles, since which time the property has been owned and operated by the Tomlinson family.



GEORGE TOMLINSON

Born, August 15th, 1822.

Died, May 11th, 1908.



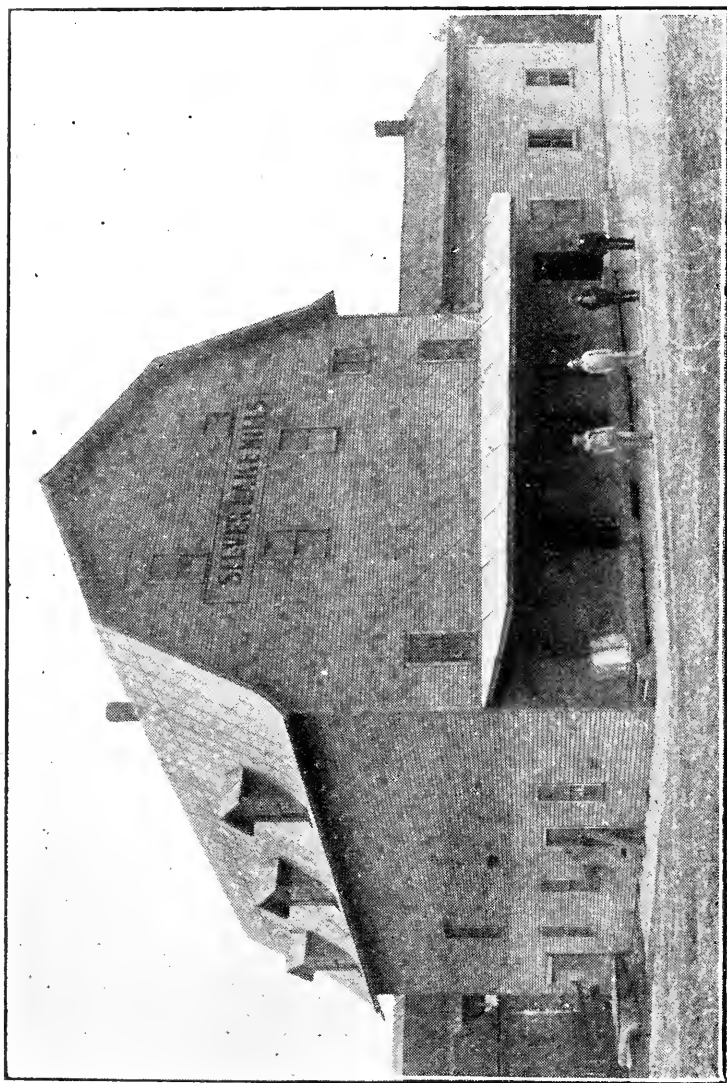
The above view is taken from a point south of the Andrus planing mill looking west, and shows the "Andrus pond," the culvert across Main street and the Dolbeer blacksmith shop occupied by the late John Copeland, on the left. The white building is the former Wm. T. Hamlin residence, now occupied by Joseph Ireland's Farmers' Supply House. In the distance is the Tomlinson mill and the sheds which covered the ground now occupied by the Tomlinson and Gillett residences on Center street. This picture was taken some time in the early '70's.

In 1865, while this mill was being conducted by Nobles & Tomlinson, the same firm erected a building on the present site of the salt works, and used it as a cider mill. In 1868, generators were introduced and the manufacture of pure cider vinegar was begun by them and carried on prosperously until the Spring of 1878, when, in dividing their property and interests preparatory to dissolving partnership, the flouring mill was taken by Mr. Tomlinson and the vinegar works by Mr. Nobles, who associated with himself, his son Marshall S. Nobles, under the firm name of C. W. G. Nobles & Son. The new management made a number of important improvements and an extensive business was carried on until about the year 1885. The mill, when operating to its full capacity, consumed 1500 bushels of apples per day, producing thirty barrels of vinegar. The barrels were made by the firm of Loomis & Fanning, who conducted an extensive cooper shop at this time.

At the time Mr. Tomlinson was associated with Mr. Nobles the firm also conducted a hame factory at the vinegar works.

In 1886 the Perry Salt Company was organized, with a capital stock of \$80,000, most of which was subscribed by local residents. C. W. G. Nobles was the principal organizer and stockholder. The building that he had previously used as a vinegar works was remodeled to conform with the requirements of the new industry and other and larger buildings were soon erected and equipped with the proper machinery. A group of large vats were erected on the ridge near the present Tempest knitting mills, and were used for evaporating the salt. The cost of manufacture by this process was considerably greater than the mined salt, consequently the management found it difficult to compete with the concerns that mined the product. The result was that the local plant failed and went into the hands of a receiver, and later, through foreclosure proceedings, passed into the hands of the First National Bank of Perry, the business be-

ing conducted for four years by George K. Page, when it was purchased in 1899 by the National Salt Company. This so-called "trust" closed the local plant, together with several others which had come under their control, thus eliminating their competition. The following year the plant was again sold, this



Tomlinson's Mill as it appears at the present time.

time to the Iroquois Salt Company, of which Mr. Harry Yates of Rochester was the principal stockholder. This company continued business until about 1909, when a portion of the buildings were refitted and used one year as a cider mill. The business was apparently unprofitable, and after an idleness of a few years the plant was dismantled and the buildings were taken down.

CHAPTER VI

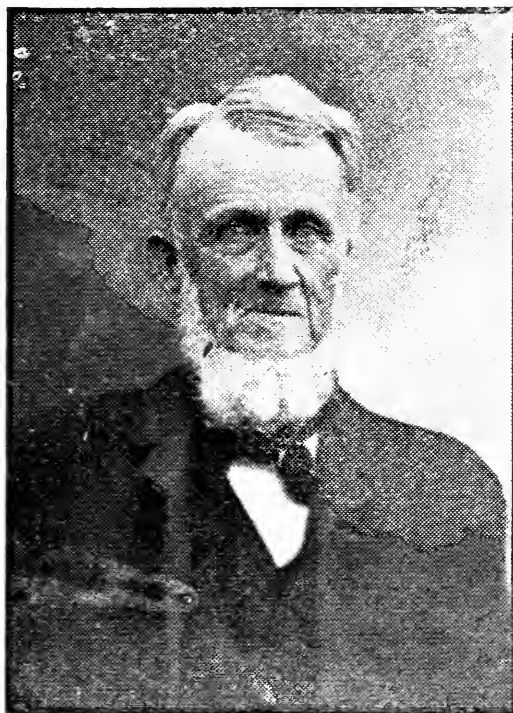
Mauufactories That Had an Important Part in the Growth of the Town—Rise and Fall of Salt Manufacturing—Knitting Company's Development.

A brick yard was established about the year 1828 near West Perry, just south of the road, near the inlet, a Mr. Moses being the proprietor and manufacturer. The brick used in the construction of the old Presbyterian Church, the old Perry Academy and the block erected by Rufus H. Smith, (a part of the present Olin block) were manufactured at this yard.

The Perry carriage factory was established in the year 1832 by Wm. K. Dolbeer. The building occupied by this concern was located on the corner of Main and St. Helena streets. Mr. Dolbeer afterward took his son Kimball into partnership under the firm name of Dolbeer & Son. In 1865 the property was sold to Moses Dolbeer, and in 1867, W. H. Botsford was taken into partneship under the firm name of Dolbeer & Botsford. Buggies, phaetons, lumber wagons, sleighs, cutters, etc., were manufactured by the firm until 1872, when the property passed into the hands of G. B. Olin & Co., who used it for several years for the manufacture of the celebrated spring-tooth harrows that found a wide sale. The industry was later removed to Canandaigua.

Calvin Fanning came to Perry from Avon in about 1846 and erected a cooper shop near the site of the district school building standing on the "flatiron" corners about one mile east of Perry Village, just beyond the Alanson Lacy place. Later, he moved the business to a building on Water street and continued it there for a number of years. About the year 1870, his son Charles A., together with Henry and Lyman Loomis, rented the property on the corner of Main and St. Helena

streets, the firm being known as Loomis, Fanning & Co. About two years later they purchased property on Center street, near the depot, for greater convenience and enlarged facilities. In 1877 Henry Loomis retired, and in 1882 Lyman Loomis with-



ALANSON LACY

Born, 1810.

Died, 1909.

drew from the business, which was thereafter conducted by Mr. Fanning. In 1884 he added a coal business to his line of coo-
erage. In 1894, owing to failing health, he relinquished the active care of the business to his son, Fred D. Fanning, who took charge and complete management of it. After the death of C. A. Fanning in 1899, the business was conducted under the firm name of F. D. Fanning & Co., who added the local ice business, purchased of C. G. Martin. Mrs. Fanning died in 1909,

and since her death F. D. Fanning has been the sole owner and manager of the business. He has added another industry, an apple evaporator works, which has met with success.

C. W. G. Nobles & Son conducted a coal business for several years after Mr. Nobles dissolved partnership with Geo. Tomlinson, and after Mr. Nobles' death it was sold to Charles Dolbeer, who sold it to C. A. Carmichael and C. A. Toan, Carmichael & Toan adding a local ice business. In 1894, Carmichael & Toan sold their business to C. G. Martin, who sold the local ice business to F. D. Fanning.

John Dickerson, a son of Daniel Dickerson, who came to Perry in 1814, conducted the first marble or monumental works in the town. About the year 1820 he opened a quarry on his father's farm near West Perry. Here he manufactured many of the rude monuments erected in the old cemeteries where sleep the remains of so many of Perry's pioneers. The native stone which he chiseled may be seen in other towns than Perry, as far east as Lima. When the means of transportation and the wealth of the people would allow, he journeyed to Rutland, Vt., his native town, for marble which he sent on to Perry and finished as desired. About 1865 Mr. Dickerson removed to Kansas, where he died on Sept. 8, 1878.

Deacon Moses McKee was another early monument maker. His establishment was located on Center street, near the culvert where the Edgerly creek crosses the highway, about one-quarter of a mile from the junction with Covington street. He specialized in white marble slabs which came from Vermont. Many of these may be seen in Hope Cemetery.

About the year 1850 a certain Mr. Buttre established a monument works in Perry, but for some cause he discontinued business within a few years.

The Sutherland monument works were established in Perry in 1880 by Charles Sutherland. Although beginning in a small way and employing only one man, by efficient workmanship and good management the business has grown until its capacity has been enlarged several times, numerous hands are employed, and its product has found an extensive sale throughout this section.

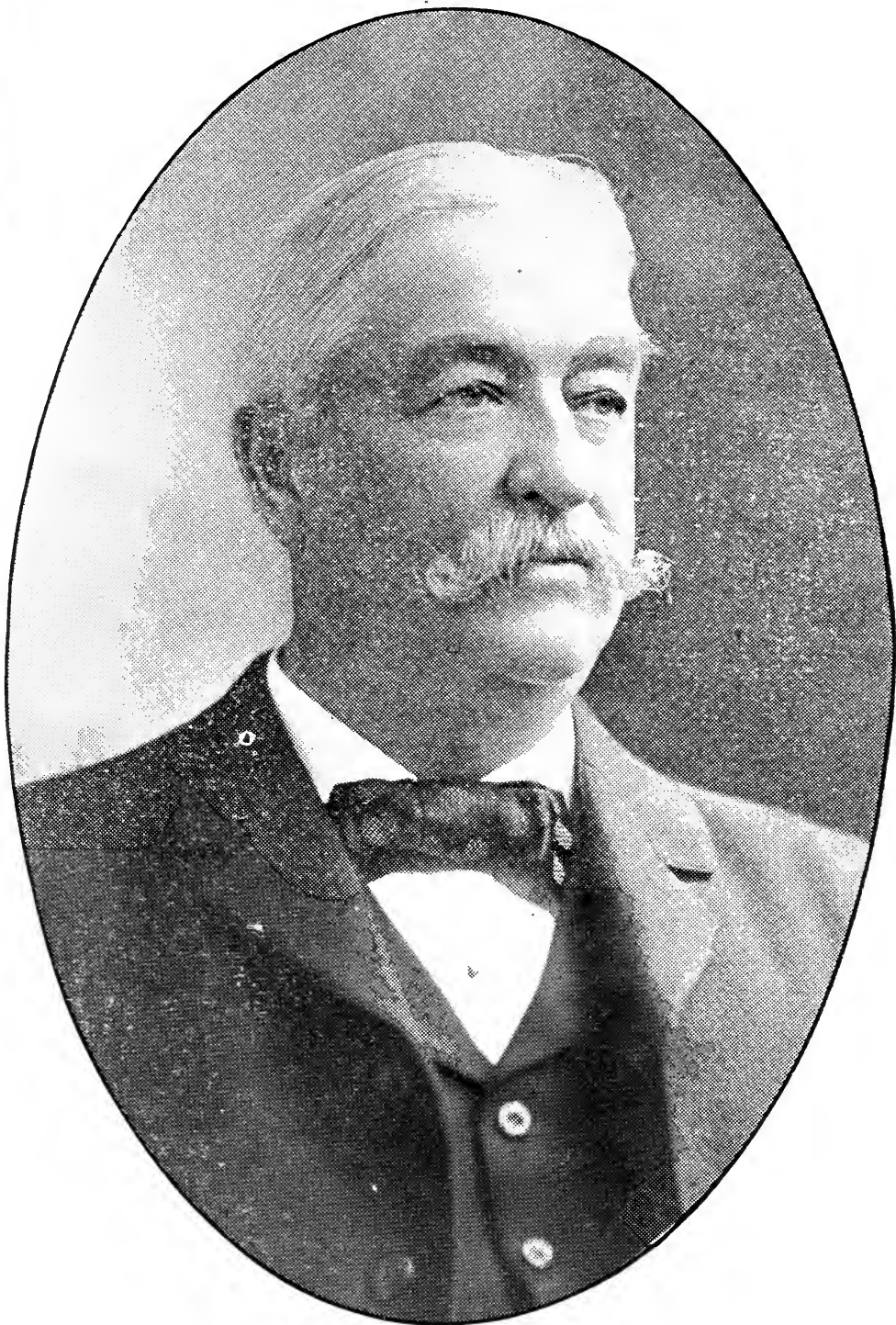
The Perry Knitting Company was organized in 1881 by local residents, the enterprise being promoted by Mr. A. A. Moore of Greenwich, N. Y. The original investment of capital stock was \$40,000, which was increased to \$71,300 the third year. In 1892 it was again increased to \$100,000. The first building, now known as Mill No. 1, was erected in 1882. Mr. Moore's connection with the industry continued for only one year, he being succeeded by Mr. T. H. Bussey, who was in charge two years. He was followed by Patrick Kane as superintendent, who remained in that capacity for six years and increased its working force to about 70 operatives. Until this time the industry had not been profitable, but it began paying expenses under Mr. Kane's management, although no dividends were realized by the stockholders. Mr. Kane was succeeded in 1891 by Mr. George M. Traber, who came here from Little Falls, N. Y. Within the period since 1891 the growth of the industry, in the size of the plant, number of operatives, and the amount of business done, has been remarkable. The Perry Knitting Company began with 35,000 square feet of floor space devoted to its business. At the close of 1914 the company had 246,269 feet of floor space, or nearly five acres, the plant consisting of the following briefly described buildings:

Mill No. 1—54x98, six stories, brick.

Mill No. 2—36x89, four stories, brick.

Box factory—60x133½, three stories and basement, brick.

Yarn mill—109x268, three stories, brick.



Born, Dec. 3, 1842

HON. MILO H. OLIN,

Died May 20, 1907

Mr. Olin was the prime mover in the project of establishing a knitting mill in Perry in 1882 and was originally its largest stockholder. The business had a number of serious setbacks, but he never lost faith in the possibilities of the enterprise, and not only backed it with every dollar he possessed, but borrowed money on his credit to insure the success of the business and tide it over its difficulties. In the Fall of 1885 he was elected President and General Manager of the company and devoted every energy to make the business a success, an ambition that was fully realized after overcoming serious difficulties.

In 1888 Mr. Olin was active in the organization of the Citizens (State) Bank of Perry, which is a solid financial institution. He was made President at the organization and was continued in office until he died.

Mr. Olin was one of the promoters and a large stockholder in the Silver Lake Agricultural Association. He was also the leader in the movement to induce the Robeson Cutlery Company to locate in Perry and gave \$500 toward the purchase price of the idle reaper works building, spending his time and effort to get other citizens to give, and accomplishing his object. Later, he took stock in the company to aid in its greater development.

When a Creamery was proposed for Perry, as a benefit to the farming community as well as to the village interests, Mr. Olin took stock in the enterprise, and when its failure seemed probable because of inability to raise the necessary amount of money, he made up the deficiency to insure its establishment.

In every movement for the betterment and progress of the town he took a leading and active part, giving generously of his time and money. He was one of the Railroad Commissioners of the town and an earnest advocate of that enterprise which gave Perry rail communication with the outside world.

Whatever enterprise might benefit Perry found an active champion in Mr. Olin, whether it was civic, educational or philanthropic, and none could truthfully say that he failed to do his part; and he did not stop to consider whether or not he was to be directly benefited.

Mr. Olin was not only prominent in his town, but also in the county and State. In the Fall of 1891 he was nominated by the Republican County Convention for Member of Assembly from this county, and served two terms. He was a Presidential Elector in 1897, the first term of President McKinley. For a period of six years he was one of the State Fair Commissioners, a position he held until the time of his death. He was also a director of the State Experiment Station at Geneva.

C. G. C.

Office—33x50, two stories, brick; the second story being occupied by a restaurant for the convenience of employees.

Engine and dynamo house—35x40.

Mill No. 5—139x160, three stories and basement, brick.

Two engine houses, each 26x34.

Two boiler houses—one 26x38 and one 26x50.

Four large frame storehouses.

Three concrete storehouses.

Dimensions over all of the seven storehouses, 336x105.

Concrete picker house—97x109.

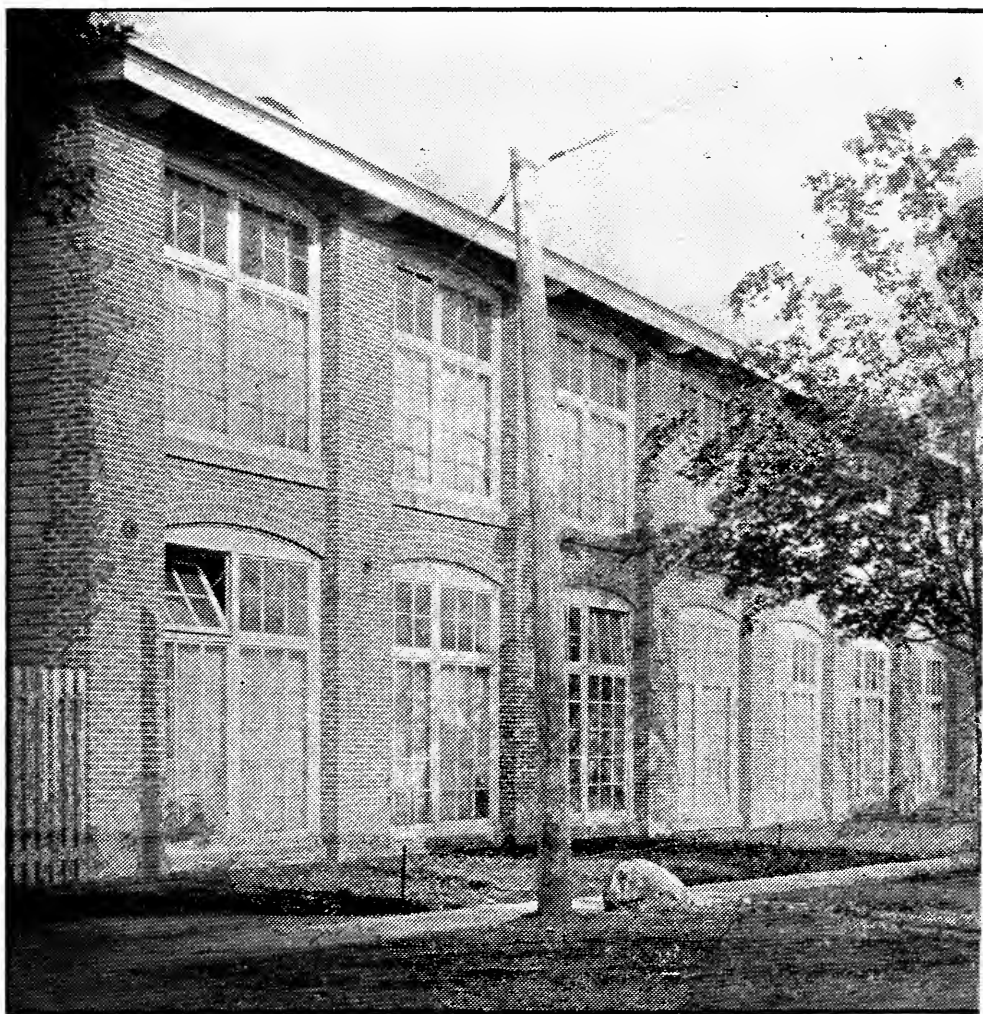
Concrete Wash House—79x75.

Concrete Dry House—51x40.

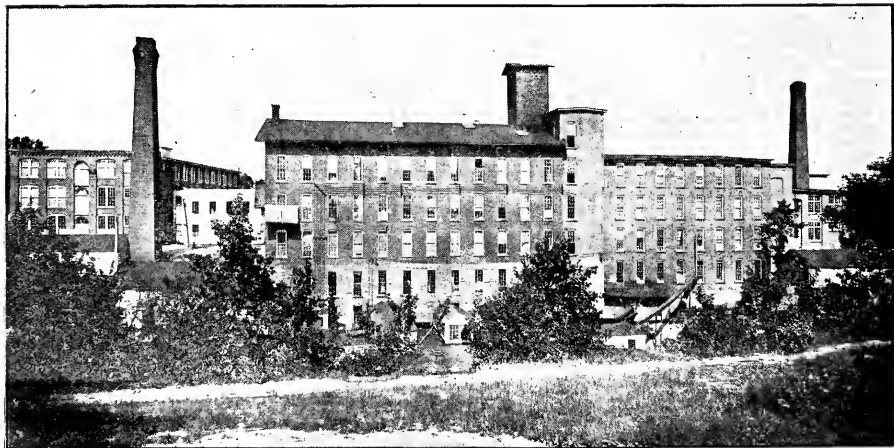
With its water, steam and electric power, the plant uses 1500 horse-power. Of this amount, about 100 horse-power is electric, generated by waste water carried through a huge trunk conduit to a site 1800 feet below the plant, where it has a fall of 85 feet. An immense electric generator which is operated by steam produces 800 horse-power. The entire plant is lighted by electricity developed by its own machines, with a capacity of 1000 incandescent lamps. It is heated throughout by steam, being equipped with the exhaust system. It has a complete telephone system, with twenty-two stations, giving instant communication with the foreman of every department.

In addition to the fire protection given by the municipality, the company has its own independent pumping system, with a capacity of 750 gallons per minute, and an automatic sprinkling system in every department.

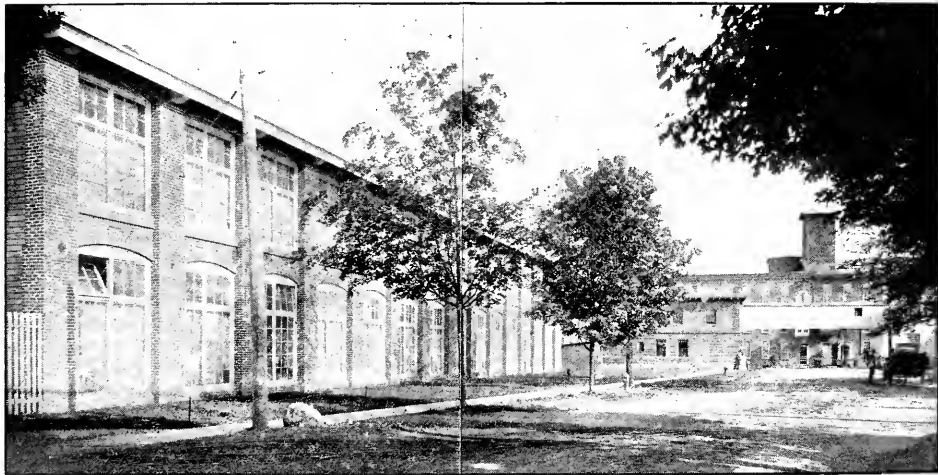
At the present time the company has about 1000 employees. Of this number about 100 belong to the night force, the factory having for several years been obliged to run night and day to keep up with its orders. The factory has 18,824 cotton spindles, about 400 sewing machines, and 225 knitting machines, besides the large amount of other machinery necessary for



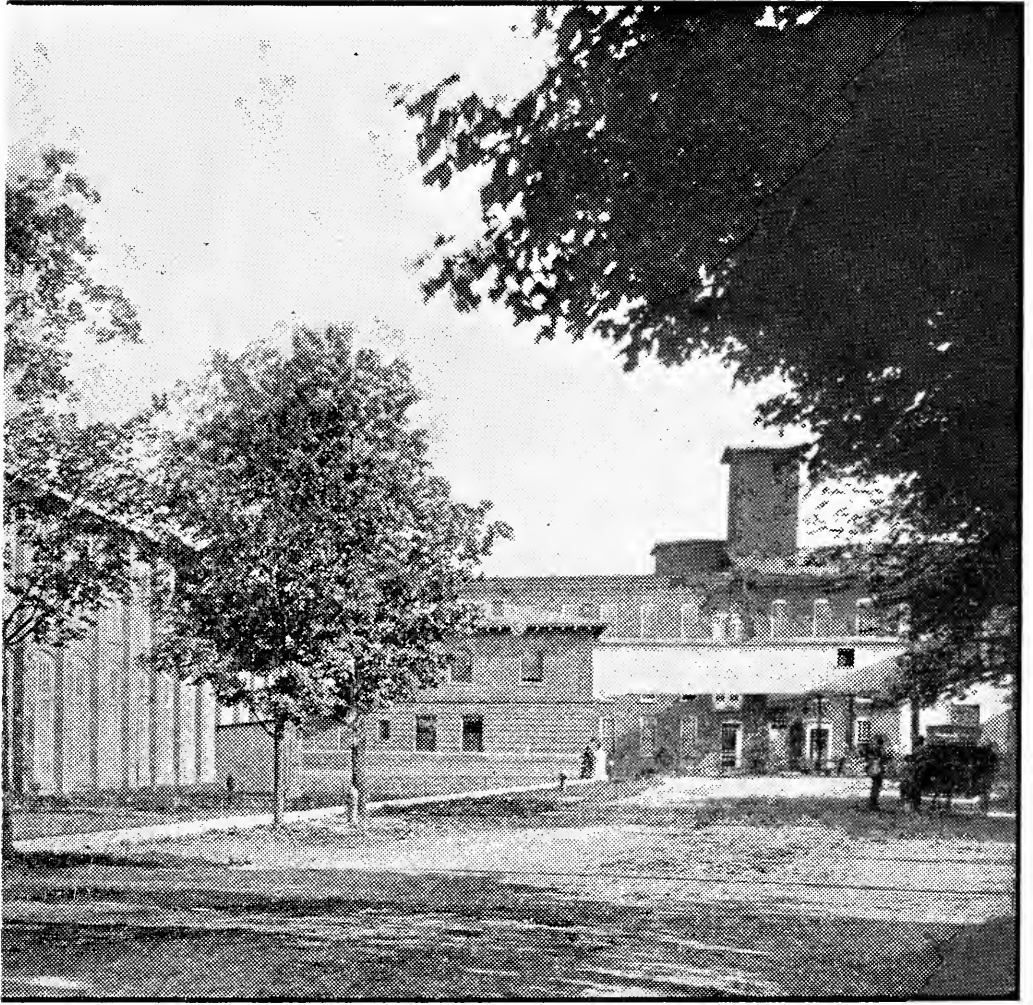
This picture shows a portion of the Yarn Mill on the left; the office
ered bridge leads to another building, is shown small sections of Mills



In the above picture, taken from the east bank of the outlet, in the center is shown Mill No. 1; at the right of it is Mill No. 2; at the extreme right is shown a portion of the Yarn Mill. At the left is shown a portion of the Box Factory.



This picture shows a portion of the Yarn Mill on the left; the office on the right of it, behind the tree. Beyond the office, from which the covered bridge leads to another building, is shown small sections of Mills Nos. 1 and 2. This view is taken on Hope street, looking east.



on the right of it, behind the tree. Beyond the office, from which the cov-
Nos. 1 and 2. This view is taken on Hope street, looking east.

operating such an important industry. On the average, every working day, 28,000 complete garments are made. To produce these the company uses 135 bales of cotton each week; (500 pounds or more to the bale) or 34 tons per week of cotton that is spun into yarn.

The company manufactures a large variety of light and heavy weight underwear in two-piece and union suits and their product is sold to the largest jobbers in nearly every State of the Union, and the goods are retailed in every part of the United States. They are also getting an export business well established. In addition to their home office in Perry, in which seven people are employed, the company maintains an office on Broadway, New York City.

The late Hon. M. H. Olin was president of the company from 1885 until his death in 1907. It is due to his faith in the enterprise, his tenacity of purpose and his loyalty to Perry that the institution has passed through the trying times it has been obliged to meet and overcome, particularly during its first few years, when to keep it in operation, he assumed financial obligations that would have caused great personal loss had his faith not been justified. To G. M. Traber, the manager during the continuous period since he took charge, a great measure of credit is also due for the success that the company enjoys. The faith and courage of Mr. Olin, combined with the practical experience and executive ability of Mr. Traber were the factors that turned the tide in the favorable direction since followed and enjoyed.

The Robeson Cutlery Company

The business of this company was founded in 1879 by the late Millard F. Robeson. At that time Mr. Robeson was a traveling salesman for a New York concern and took up the

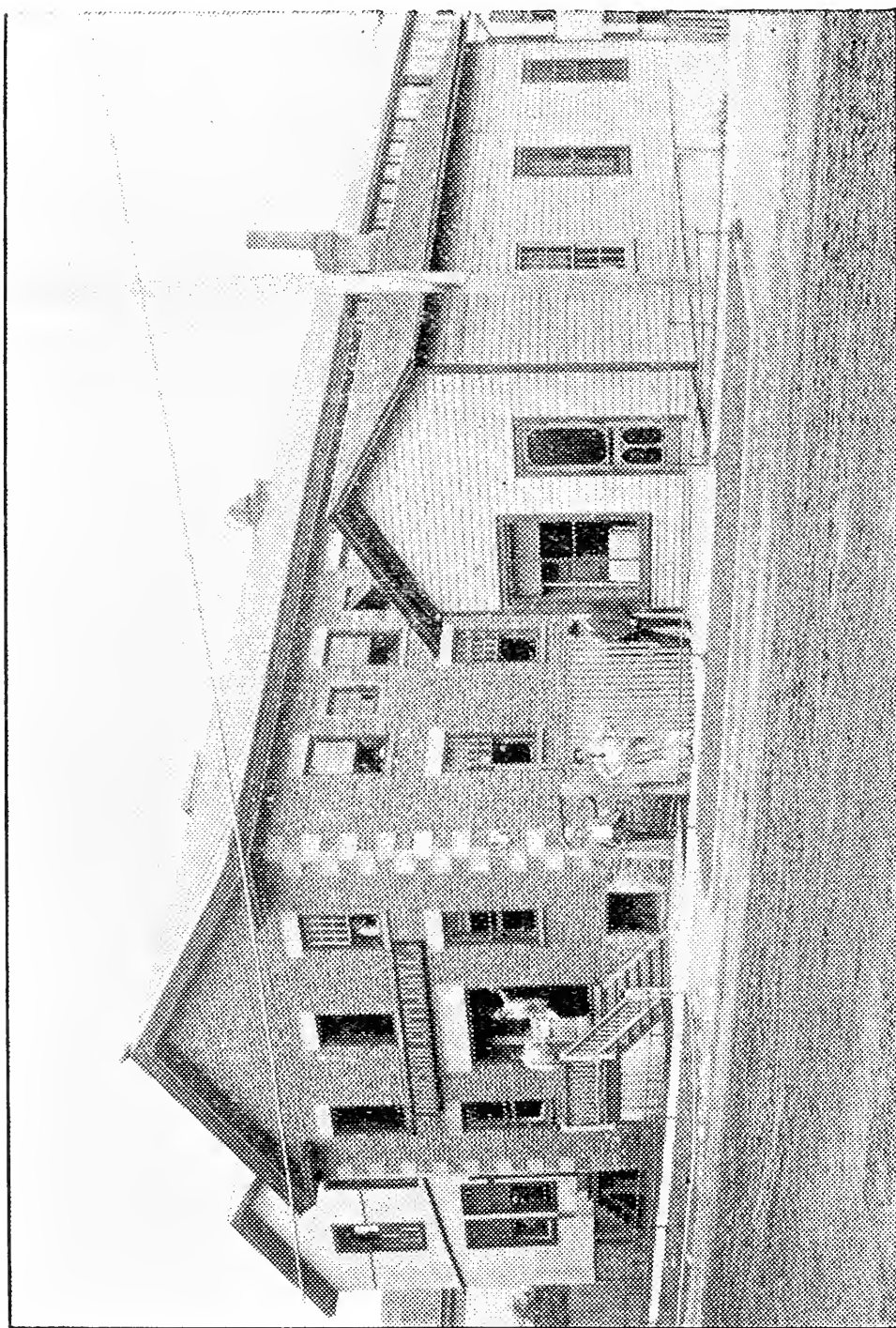


MILLARD F. ROBESON

Born, April 8th, 1847

Died, Dec. 30th, 1903

selling of cutlery as a "side line," buying knives from jobbing houses. He kept his first stock in a bureau drawer. As his trade grew he increased his stock and kept it in a clothes press in his home. It outgrew the storage facilities of his clothes press and the overflow occupied the floor space underneath his bed. Next he built an addition to his house, a room specially fitted with shelves to contain his stock. Mr. Robeson felt quite proud when that proved to be too small and he erected a brick building on the rear of his residence lot in Elmira. In 1894 he purchased an interest in the Rochester Stamping Works and removed to that city, continuing his cutlery business by buying of jobbers as before. In 1895, Mr. Robeson rented a factory building at Camillus, N. Y., and began the manufacture of his own product, employing 30 to 35 men. Three years later—in the Spring of 1898—the industry was removed to Perry. Mr. Robeson having visited this place on several occasions, selling his goods to the hardware trade, he was impressed with the town and its advantages. At that time the buildings now occupied were idle. They had been vacated by the Wyckoff Harvester Co., which had removed to Jamestown, N. Y. Business men had talked the matter over with him and made the proposition which they believed could be fulfilled: If Mr. Robeson would remove the industry to Perry, the plant would be rented to him for a reasonable figure until such time as his payroll amounted to \$36,000 per year, an annual sworn statement to be rendered to a trustee. When the pay roll reached the sum named, the plant would be deeded to the Robeson Cutlery Co., upon consideration of \$1.00, the company to agree to continue the industry in operation here for a period of ten years, when the property would become theirs absolutely, without reservation. If the company suspended business or removed from Perry before the expiration of ten years the property was to be deeded back to the trustee upon consideration of \$1.00. Mr. Robeson agreed to the proposition, and the

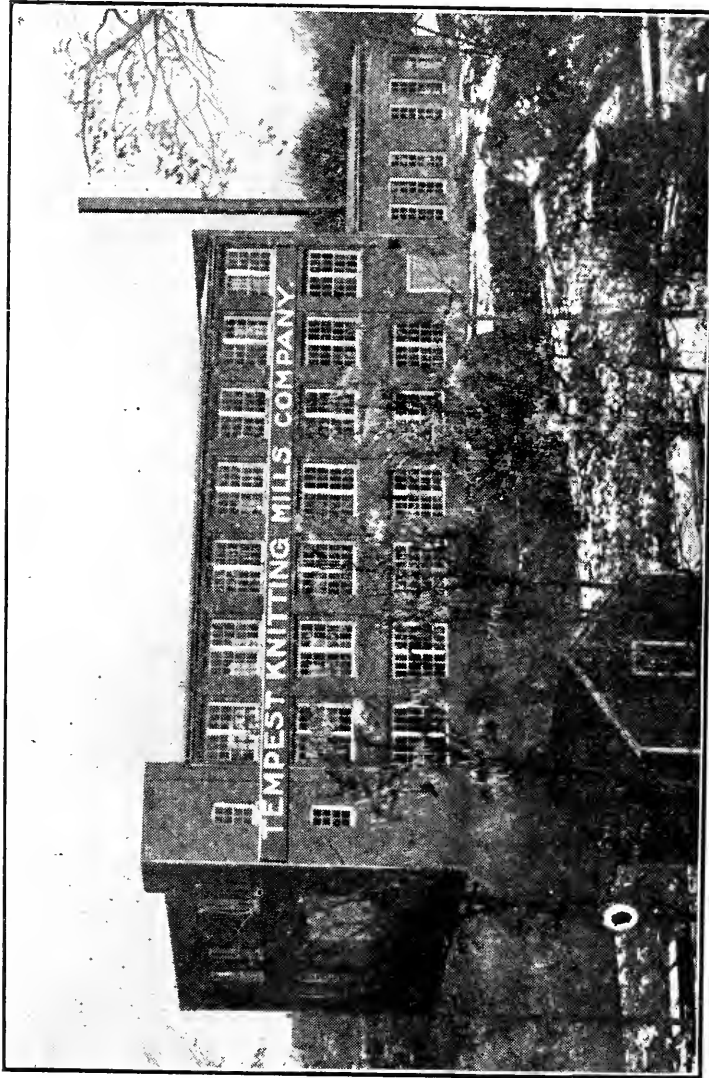


late Hon. M. H. Olin, heading the list with \$500, took an active part in securing subscriptions from other public spirited citizens, who gave all the way from \$500 down to \$25 toward the \$8,000 necessary to purchase the property and secure the industry for Perry. The effort was successful within a comparatively short time, and the late George Tomlinson was made trustee for the citizens who subscribed. The above stipulations were fulfilled and the land and buildings were accordingly deeded to the company. Since the industry came to Perry the business has increased rapidly, necessitating the erection in 1906 of a 90x40 brick addition containing three stories and basement. The buildings are heated throughout by the exhaust and live steam systems, and are protected from fire by automatic sprinklers, also by chemical tanks distributed through the entire plant. A dynamo with a capacity of 600 lights gives ample light for all apartments. The company uses approximately 250 horse-power in the operation of its machinery. This is distributed from three units—gas, steam and water—which produce the necessary power, with plenty of reserve. The company's pay roll at the end of 1914 amounted to more than \$200,000 per year. Beginning with a force of about 35 men, the company now has about 400 employees, manufacturing more than 1,500,000 knives. Its factory is one of the three largest cutlery plants in the United States in the amount of production. The company has 52 traveling salesmen who sell the product in every State in the Union.

The Tempest Knitting Company

This company was organized in 1907, with a capital of \$75,000 and with the following named gentlemen as stockholders: D. M. Tempest, George J. Grieve, James N. Wyckoff, Joseph E. Cole, Dr. John Harding, Charles H. Toan and Chester F. Holcombe. A brick building three stories high, was

erected on property purchased of Wm. Rudd and Lloyd McIntyre, off Federal street, above the railroad tracks, from which a switch runs directly to the mill. The company began manu-



Original building of the Tempest Knitting Company. Present capacity double the size of this building.

facturing cotton underwear, Nov. 25th, 1907, with a force of 28 employees. A 70-foot addition was built on the east end in

1912. and an addition 50x96 was built on the west end later in the year, doubling the original capacity. A 300 horse-power Corliss engine is connected with a 100 horse-power dynamo, which furnishes power to the individual electric motors attached to the different machines, thus doing away with all overhead shafting and fixtures. The factory is heated throughout by the exhaust and live steam systems, lighted by electricity of its own manufacture, and is equipped with an automatic sprinkling system for fire protection. The pressure tank used in this system was installed in the Fall of 1913 and has a capacity of 30,000 gallons. In addition to this protection, there is a hydrant at each end of the building connected with the six-inch supply main of the municipal system. The number of employees has been steadily increased since the beginning, there being nearly 200 at the present time. Mr. Tempest, in whose honor the industry was named, closed his connection with the concern in October, 1908, disposing of his stock a short time afterward to local residents.

The Lander & Watson Hosiery Co.

This manufacturing concern was organized in 1908 by D.W. Watson and James Lander. Mr. Watson had previously made an extensive study of the matter and materials and had installed a hosiery knitting machine in his home on Elm street. Then he purchased material and experimented until he produced the satisfactory article. He tested it thoroughly by actual wear and induced a number of his friends to give his product a severe trial. Finding that he had succeeded in making a grade of hosiery that by practical demonstration was superior to a majority of such goods sold, he decided to extend the manufacture of his product and place it upon the market. Mr. Lander became interested and the two gentlemen decided to embark in the business under the firm name mentioned.

Land was leased on the Matthews property and a two-story building, 20x30 feet in size was erected. Machinery and the other necessary equipment were installed, and operations began in August, 1908. A small addition was made to the original building in the following year. About two years after the beginning of operations, the company was reorganized and a stock company was formed, a number of the local citizens assisting in financing the enterprise. About a year after the reorganization, Mr. Watson retired to go into business for himself. The annual production has been about 175,000 pairs of hose.

In March, 1893, Messrs. William L. Smith, James Kennedy and Benjamin H. Hollister formed a co-partnership under the firm name of Smith, Kennedy & Co., and erected a saw and planing mill on Center street, a short distance south of the depot. In 1895, Messrs. Kennedy and Hollister sold their interest to Mr. Smith, who continued the business a few years. The most prominent building erected by Mr. Smith was the Town Hall, which was constructed in 1896. He lost money on the contract and became financially embarrassed in consequence. Messrs. Kennedy and Hollister held a mortgage against the mill property, and following foreclosure, sold it in 1900 to John J. Martin, who remodeled and converted it into the grist mill which has since been conducted by him. In 1907, Mr. Martin sold the building and land to his son, William K. Martin.

The Roberts Lumber Company was formed in 1908 by Mr. W. J. Roberts. A building, 54x100, was erected on the east bank of the outlet near Gardeau street. An addition, 20x110, was constructed the following year. All of the machinery used in the plant is operated by electric power furnished by the Perry Electric Light Co.

The Perry Glove and Mitten Manufacturing Company was organized by George A. Clark and was successfully managed by him until the time of his death on Jan. 16, 1911. Its product was canvass gloves and mittens, for which he found an extensive sale.

In the Winter of 1914, Perry citizens subscribed for \$20,000 stock in the Kaustine Company, Incorporated, manufacturers of sanitary closets, and secured the location of that industry in Perry. They removed their factory equipment from Bradford, Pa., and early in 1915, began manufacturing here on a small scale. A factory site was secured on the Carmichael (formerly Needham) farm, adjoining the line of the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg Railroad, and the work of erecting a plant at a cost of about \$10,000 was begun in April, 1915. Perry capital also was invested in the construction of an 1800-foot switch from the road leading north from the lake, through the property to the site of the Kaustine Company's plant, providing a number of other desirable factory sites for future development. The land for these additional sites, consisting of about ten acres, was given by W. H. McClelland and Lucius Atwater, who had purchased the farm for development into residence property, naming the tract "Lake View Heights." The Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Railroad Company contributed a portion of the expense for the 1800-foot switch above referred to, and the new industry began operations here with favorable indications of steady growth, its first month's sales amounting to double what they were in the same period the previous year.

CHAPTER VII

Educational Institutions of the Early Days—Encouragement Always Given by Townspeople to Such Factors in Its Development— Private and Public Institutions.

The great bulwark of the Pilgrims was their faith in God and universal education. The pioneers brought these traits of character to Western New York, and wherever a settlement was made, the church and the school house were the immediate successors of the log cabins of the settlers. Whatever else might be neglected, religious worship and the education of their children were not forgotten.

In the winter of 1812-13, two school houses were built in the Town of Perry, one at West Perry and the other in the village. The exact location of the first mentioned is unknown. Miss Ann Cutting, a resident of Warsaw, taught the school and was the first teacher to conduct a school in the town. The village school house was a small log building and stood on the flat iron piece of ground at the junction of the Richmond mill roadway and Water street, a short distance northeast from Gardeau street. Miss Catey Ward, who came from New Marlboro, Mass., and who was a sister of the pioneer physician, Jabez Ward, was engaged as the first village school teacher. Miss Ward was born in Massachusetts, Jan. 1st, 1792, and came to Perry with her parents, Ralph and Lorian Ward, in 1813. She was one of the original members of the Congregational Church at Perry Center. After finishing her career as an instructor, she married John Russell, an early settler in Perry. She died on Feb. 20th, 1865, and is buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery at Perry Center. In the Pioneer Log Cabin at Silver Lake is exhibited a large wooden ball which was used in this village school as a globe map, the first to be used in the town.

In 1813, another log school building was erected at Perry Center by the early settlers of that portion of the town and was opened in the Fall of that year with Miss Ann Mann of Massachusetts, as teacher. This was used as a school building but one year, and was subsequently sold to one of the incoming settlers and converted into a dwelling.

In 1869, the late A. W. Young of Warsaw wrote a good description of the early school house, together with personal reminiscences of the period. He said: "The first school houses were built of logs, and with fireplaces and chimneys like those of the log dwelling houses. They were sometimes roofed or shingled with 'shakes,' a material resembling staves for barrels. The writing desks were made by boring large holes in the side of the house, slanting downward from the wall, and driving into them large pins upon which the boards were fastened, so that the pupils, when writing, faced the wall. Seats were made of slabs, flat side up, resting on four legs. Many of our citizens remember those school houses in which they received their limited education—the ill chinked walls, the large, open fireplace filled with a huge pile of logs in a vain attempt to make a comfortable place to study. They remember that most common of all questions coming from the remote parts of the room, 'Master, may I go to the fire?' and how often the 'Master,' annoyed by the continued reiteration of this question would respond the emphatic 'No!' Nor have they forgotten their peculiar feelings when, their whole bodies trembling with cold, they were compelled to keep their seats until relieved by the arrival of 12 or 4 o'clock, with the thrice welcome word, 'Dismissed.' Not only were school houses uncomfortable, the course of instruction and the qualification of teachers were very defective. The entire course in most of the schools embraced only spelling, reading, writing and common arithmetic. In this last branch, Daboll's arithmetic was used, and the mathe-

matical ambition of many pupils was satisfied when they could 'cipher' to the end of the 'Single rule of three,' which in that popular work, came before fractions. Few teachers having a knowledge of grammar, this was not insisted upon by the inspectors. Geography, now one of the studies in every primary school, could hardly be found in a country school. The manner of teaching and conducting a school is also worthy of note. Writing, in many schools was not done at any fixed hour, nor by all at the same time. None but goose quill pens were used; a metal pen would have been considered a great curiosity. To make and mend the pens and 'set copies' for ten, twelve or thirty pupils took no small portion of the teacher's time and was often done during the reading and other exercises, in which the worst mistakes often escaped the observation of the teacher. To avoid this, some teachers did this work before or after school hours. The introduction of metallic pens and the printed copy book is an invaluable improvement, saving much time and labor and furnishing the pupils with good and uniform copies. Nor had the blackboard been invented; or, if it had, it was not known in the rural districts. Nor were pupils in arithmetic taught in classes. They got the attention and assistance of the teacher as they could. Voices were heard from different parts of the room: 'Master, I can't do this sum,' or 'Master, please show me how to do this sum.' These, with questions asking liberty to 'go and drink,' etc., which, on the floor of some schools were always in order, the teacher going from one part of the room to another to help the scholars or do their work for them, and scholars running to the teacher to ask him how to pronounce the hard words in the spelling and reading lessons—all these and other things that might be mentioned, kept the school in a constant bustle. There were, however, some good teachers then; and there are many now who answer too nearly to the foregoing description, yet a comparison of the schools of the

present time with those of that period show a vast improvement."

In the year 1819 the Town of Perry was divided into school districts, and the districts then established have been altered from time to time, as the changing circumstances have required. The writer has made an effort to trace the various districts from the time of their original formation up to the present, but has found that very few of the old school records were available and without them the work could not be accomplished.

The first district school house in the town was built near Perry Center in about the year 1819, some distance west of the four corners, and was taught by Samuel Waldo. This was probably the first frame school building in the town. Another frame school building was erected soon afterward on the Center road, just above Watkins avenue. Silas Ellis, from Vermont, was engaged as the first teacher.

Of the district schools which had been established in the town, special mention is made of old District No. 5 at West Perry. This was one of the most important of the early schools, both as to scholarship and numbers, generally ranking first after the Union School in the village and the Institute at Perry Center. Among those who taught this school in its early days we find the names of Rev. David Nutton, Miss Emeline D. Howard, G. B. Matthews, Sarah E. Fitch, J. N. Flint, Sarah Howard, Samuel W. Tewksbury, Deacon Wygant, and James N. Bingham.

In 1869, districts numbered 7, 9 and 14, embracing the Center neighborhood, were consolidated, forming District No. 8. Land was purchased on the southwest of the four corners, and the present school building (costing approximately \$3,000) was erected. The lumber used in its construction was hauled overland from Piffard. The first teachers employed were E. W. Hoyt

of Pavilion and Miss Libbie Judd, who had charge of the primary department. At one time in the school's history, 125 students were enrolled.

In 1816 the Water street school house was found to be too small to accommodate the constantly increasing number of pupils and another building was constructed on the corner of Lake and Short streets. This was a two-story building, the school occupying the lower floor, the second floor being devoted to public use for meetings, lodge purposes, religious gatherings, etc. On March 6, 1819, Constellation Lodge No. 320, F. & A. M., was instituted in this small upper room. As near as we can learn, Ebenezer Higgins, a brother of Dr. Otis Higgins, was the first Worshipful Master. The building was used principally as a school for a period of 16 years. As the population of the village continued to increase, a still larger school building was needed, and in 1832 a portion of the building that is now known as "The Beehive," was erected and was used for the advanced scholars, the Water street building being used as a primary school from 1832 to 1845.

In 1902, the late Harwood A. Dudley of Warsaw, who came with his parents to Perry in 1831, wrote reminiscences of his early school days at The Beehive, excerpts from which are here given:

"It had its departments, perhaps not graded just as now, but sufficiently so to be marked and distinct. The boys' department had for its head Wm. Skidmore. We children used to called him 'Bill.' The girls' school had Miss Charlotte Ayers for teacher, and, as I remember, she was much more capable and popular than Bill Skidmore. 'Skid' was severe and erratic in his discipline, while Miss Ayers was patient and considerate in the management of her department. I remember an incident in Skidmore's discipline that reveals his mode of punishment.

Two boys got into a scrap one day at recess and came into the school room in a dilapidated condition that attracted the teacher's attention and led to the inquiry as to what had occurred outside. A scrimmage was reported, and the teacher adopted a novel mode of punishment. I remember the details distinctly, as I was one of the boys. Three good and strong branches from a neighboring tree were brought in and the offenders were called into the center of the room; and each was given an 'olive branch,' while the teacher retained the stoutest stick for his own use. The culprits were then ordered to finish their fight then and there. The spirit of the contest had by this time died out from both parties, but when we did not put in all the energy the teacher thought proper, he would add force to the conflict by whaling the laggard and he closed the entertainment by giving each of us a separate and distinct punishment on his own account. The two boys were ever afterward good friends, but they will ever remember William Skidmore's vigorous ways of administering punishment to fighting school boys."

In 1845, District No. 16 (Water street school) and No. 6 (The Beehive) were consolidated and the last named school building was remodeled, greatly enlarged, and re-dedicated on November 18th of that year, Rev. Joseph R. Page, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, delivering the oration. This building served as a public school until after the purchase of the Academy property by the district in 1872, at which time it was sold and converted into a dwelling house. After the coalition the school was known as the District Union School. Under the new regime Mr. T. S. Loomis was engaged as principal. His sister, Miss Loomis, was the head of the young ladies' department, and Miss Eliza Dolbeer (afterward Mrs. Henry N. Page) was in charge of the primary department. All pupils were charged for tuition as was the custom with all schools of the period. In

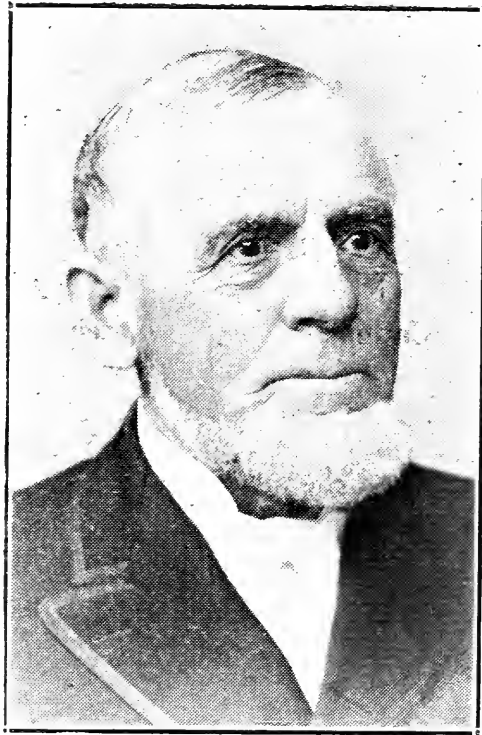
1846 Mr. Locnis resigned and was succeeded by Mr. J. B. Chase.

The following named are remembered as having taught school in The Beehive: Solomon Hull, Charles J. Hull, Linus W. Thayer, ——— Komott, Charles Holt, Charles Mix, J. H. Metcalf, Lydia Risdon, Elisha Risdon, Elizabeth Fox, Mentor Howard, Lydia Huntington, Mrs. J. S. Brown, Esther Goodell, Miss Howard, Harriet Bachelder, Thomas Copeland, J. C. Bradt, ——— Gardner, A. J. Mallory, Miss Parsons, Miranda Millspaugh (Mrs. Marvin Smith,) Amy Newland, Sophronia Broughton, Mark Pierce, Delia Jeffers (Mrs. T. B. Catton,) Edwin M. Read, Mary Palmer (Mrs. Mark Pierce,) Ellen Rood, John P. Robinson, Kate Garrison, Martha Garrison, Grace Grieve, Marion Grieve, Jessie Grieve, Elmina Taylor, J. Wheat Merrill, Wm. Turner, Kate R. Keeney, E. H. Wygant, Marietta Scranton, Abbie Bathrick (Mrs. Martin P. Andrews,) Libbie Westlake (Washburn,) Priscilla Westlake (Fiske,) E. Hoyt, Manville Cheeney, George Lucas, Ella S. Calligan, Lida Calligan. Victoria M. Herring, and George B. Fern.

The most important of the early educational institutions in the Town of Perry was established on the northeast of the four corners at Perry Center in the year 1839 by Prof. Charles A. Huntington, a graduate of Burlington College in Vermont, and was known as the Perry Center Institute. The school became widely and favorably known, students being enrolled from all parts of Western New York. During its most prosperous years—or between 1841 and 1844—the enrollment averaged about 140.

The writer has been shown by Hon. B. A. Nevins, one of the first catalogs issued by the Institute, dated January 20, 1841. The catalog was printed by J. B. Wood at Perry Village, and contains the names of the following instructors: Charles A.

Huntington, Principal of the male department; Henry E. Selden, Assistant; Lucy Huntington, Principal of the female department. The young men occupied the first floor of the building, and the young ladies used the second floor. The following named gentlemen were the "Examining Committee," a committee which was appointed annually and whose duty it was



PROF. CHARLES A. HUNTINGTON

Born April 26, 1812.

Died in Portland, Ore., Sept. 24, 1904

to visit the school from time to time and inform themselves respecting its instruction and internal regulations: Rev. John Scott, Rev. Jesse Elliott, Rev. Jenks Phillips, Hon. Peter Patterson, Phicol M. Ward, Esq., Dr. Jabez Ward, Samuel Howard, Esq., Truman Benedict and Norman Blakeslee. This committee also gave out reports of the standings and conditions of the

school at the close of alternate terms. Following is a list of the names of students who were attending the school in 1841:

Male Department—Frederic Austin, Charles G. Benedict, Charles J. Benedict, Wm. Benedict, James H. Bingham, Homer Bingham, Albert M. Bingham, Jasper N. Bolton, Wm. E. Bradley, Merritt E. Bradley, Philander Bronson, John M. Butler, Henry C. Butler, Calvin Butler, Morgan Calkins, Norman W. Calkins, Volney G. Calkins, Albert L. Camp, James H. Camp, Joseph E. Chapman, Timothy G. Clark, Wm. Clute, Squire A. Cox, German Cossitt, George W. M. Dana, Amos J. Gardner, Wm. H. Harrison, Galen Higgins, Mason A. Hollister, Samuel M. Howard, Wm. Howard, Charles Howard, Franklin M. Pixley, Amasa Porter, Carlos R. Snow, Charles E. Salter, Royal T. Howard, James B. Kniffin, George Lapham, Alva Lacy, J. Mattison, Henry L. McCann, Wm. H. McEntee, James S. McEntee, Stephen McEntee, John C. McEntee, Cyrenus McKee, Johnson A. Moss, Lambert A. Moss, John Nevins, Thomas Patterson, Peter Patterson, 2d, Wm. C. Patterson, L. D. Pettibone, Samuel D. Purdy, Silas M. Rawson, John Scott, Edward A. Sheldon, George K. Sheldon, Stewart Sheldon, Andrew Sheldon, Wm. H. Walker, Alva H. Waldo, Edwin P. Waldo, Jabez R. Ward, Harrison G. White, Daniel C. White, Edmund H. Wygant, A. A. Bainbridge, M. A. Gibson, Henry Robinson.

Female Department—Charlotte W. Austin, Phebe A. Ball, Mary J. Ball, Mary F. Banks, Mary Benedict, Betsey Benedict, Martha A. Benedict, Mary A. Bingham, Phebe Bingham, Julia A. Bortles, Ann Briggs, Mary Briggs, Lucinda Z. Bradley, Fanny M. Burr, Mary W. Buell, Sarah Y. Butler, Phebe C. Calkins, Emeline C. Calkins, Sarah C. Coleman, Mary W. Coleman, Velona Cossitt, Caroline Cox, Fanny L. Cox, Larenza M. Hollister, Lydia Hollister, Sarah J. Hollister, Caroline Howard, Emeline Howard, Amelia M. Lathrop, Helen A. Lathrop, Marie A. McEntee, Mary Ann McEntee, Jane E. Mills, Caroline Miner, Es-

ther M. Moss, Lucy J. Olin, Loeza Olin, Eliza A. Patridge, Susan S. Paterson, Elizabeth Patterson, Lovica Palmer, Sarah A. Purdy, Susan Phillips, Cynthia Phillips, Laura A. Rawson, Olive W. Rawson, Esther Rudgers, Mary Scott, Hannah J. Scott, Dorliska E. Sheldon, Caroline W. Sheldon, Mary A. Stewart, Lucy B. Tallmage, Jane E. Voohees, Phebe Ward, Sarah Ward, Clarinda White, Caroline A. Witter, Harriet Worden, Melvina A. Bolton, Amanda M. Bolton, Lucy E. Bradley, Eliza A. Calkins, Phebe Howard, Mercy A. Howard, Henrietta Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Louisa A. Lockwood, Caroline Coleman.

Sarah Ward, whose name appears in the above list, was the mother of Rev. Charles Sheldon, the noted author of "In His Steps." Amasa Porter, whose name is in the list, was a local preacher, and although 45 years of age, he was a student in this school. Others who received their education at the Perry Center Institute and later became prominent in the affairs of the world, were: Rev. Herman N. Barnum, who for many years was a noted missionary in Turkey; Jabez R. Ward and his brother Sidney, both became eminent jurists of the early 70's; Henry C. Butler was afterward a prominent judge in Minnesota; Albert Bingham became a noted lawyer of Livingston county; his brother, Monroe, after finishing his course at the Institute, removed to the West and subsequently became Lieutenant-Governor of the State of Wisconsin; Edward A. Sheldon became one of the leading educators of New York State, the founder of the State Normal School at Oswego. Today, in the Capitol at Albany may be seen a bronze statue of Mr. Sheldon, the cost of which was defrayed by the voluntary contributions of children throughout the State.

Another person who attained National prominence (the writer is not certain that he was a student of the Institute) was Joseph Ward, a descendant of Gen. Artemus Ward, the first

Commander-in-Chief of the Massachusetts forces in the Revolutionary War. Mr. Ward was born in Perry Center on May 5th, 1838. He received his early education in the school at the Center and those in the village. Later in life, he removed to Yankton, S. D., where he founded Yankton College and became its first president. He was also one of the most prominent leaders in South Dakota's struggle for statehood. He died in December, 1889. In 1913, George Harrison Durand completed a book entitled "Joseph Ward of Dakota," a copy of which was kindly loaned to the writer. It is a splendid and powerful tribute to the life and achievements of the former Perry Center boy.

The school year at the Institute was divided into four terms of eleven weeks each. Tuition for common English studies was \$3.00 per term. For the higher branches of English Science, and for Latin, Greek and French languages, \$4.00. Under the item of "incidentals," the catalog states that "the expense of fuel, sweeping, etc., will be defrayed by an assessment upon the school." It also states that "the price of board, which can be procured in good families residing near, varies from \$1.25 to \$1.75 per week."

A very fine set of instruments for the purpose of illustration in astronomy, electricity, optics, etc., were installed with the ordinary school apparatus. The text books used at the Institute were: Town's Spelling Book, Town's Analysis, Kirkham's and Brown's Grammar, Porter's Rhetorical Reader, Mitchell's Geographical Reader, Mitchell's Geography, Colburn's and Adam's Arithmetic, Bridge's Algebra, Davies' Legendre's Geometry, Flint's Survey, Abbott's Abercrombie, Parker's Exercises, Watts on the Mind, Comstock's Philosophy, Turner's Chemistry, Gray's Astronomy, Burritt's Geography of the Heavens, Gray's and Mrs. Lincoln's Botany, Emerson's History

of the United States, Whelpley's Compound, Young's Science of Government.

Below is given the program rendered at an examination and exhibition of the Perry Center Institute held on Wednesday, Feb. 15th, 1843. Judging from the number of selections on the program, it is evident that a full day was put in; and it is something of a wonder when the people found time for their meals. In the program published below we have omitted the "singing selections," "music" appearing no less than eighteen times:

FORENOON

Reading in the Bible by the School; Prayer; Monitor's Report; Arithmetic; Sallust; Compositions by James R. Dales, James B. Kniffin and Wm. C. Patterson; English Grammar; Compositions by Mary W. Coleman, Sally M. Calkins and Phebe C. Calkins; the First Elementary Class; Algebra; Geometry.

AFTERNOON

Compositions by Phebe Ward, and Sarah Ward; Second Elementary Class; Astronomy; Composition by Theodosia Parish; Compositions by Clarinda M. White, Lucinda Z. Bradley, Helen M. Purdy, Mercy A. Howard; Miscellaneous Arithmetic; Compositions Manercy L. Munson, Ann M. Banks, Velona Cositt and Amanda M. Bolton; Exercises in Geography; Compositions by Elizabeth Kay, Betsey Benedict, Lucy E. Bradley, Mary W. Patterson and Sarah B. Dales; Declamation by Melvin H. Dales; Report of Examining Committee; Address by Rev. E. M. Toof.

EVENING

French Prologue by S. W. Hitchcock; Select Declamations by James R. Dales, James B. Kniffin, Leander Fitch; Original Declamation by Herman N. Barnum; Latin Extract (Cicero) by John D. Higgins; Original Declamation by James S. McEntee;

Select Declamations by H. M. Thorp, Edwin Waldo, Wm. Benedict, Albert M. Bingham; Original Declamation by C. J. Benedict; Latin Extract by Jabez R. Ward; Original Orations by H. C. Butler, Peter Patterson, 2d, S. M. Howard; Select Declamation by Wm. C. Patterson, Edmund Wygant and Daniel White; Original Orations by Thomas S. Price, Stewart Sheldon and Edward A. Sheldon; Dialogue by James S. McEntee and Stephen McEntee; Original Orations by S. W. Hitchcock, J. D. Higgins, J. R. Ward and Amasa Porter; Music; Prayer; Benediction.

After continuing the institution for a few years, Prof. Huntington became financially embarrassed and secured funds by mortgaging the property. Being unable to meet the payments upon this indebtedness, the mortgage was foreclosed in 1845 and the property passed into other hands. Mr. Huntington removed to the West, where he became a missionary to the Indians. The new owners attempted to continue the school, but through lack of proper management, the attendance gradually dwindled and the Perry Center Institute soon passed into history. The building was sold to Daniel Ball, who moved it across the street and converted it into a shoe store. It is still standing, in a good state of preservation, on the southeast corner, a memorial to Perry Center's palmy days.

"SEMINARY HILL"

In the year 1829, the Genesee Conference of the Methodist Church, which met in Perry, appointed a committee to consider the advisability of founding an institution of learning in this district. Several towns, including Perry, Lima, Cazenovia, LeRoy and Brockport, desirous of securing the school, offered inducements to the committee. A meeting of local citizens was called and an option on the block now bounded by Cherry, Federal, Pine and Center streets, was secured to offer as a site for the school. In 1830, the committee gave its report, and after

much debating it was decided to build the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary at Lima. The property above referred to was known for years as "Seminary Hill."

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Several private schools were established in Perry between the years 1820 and 1870. One of the first of these institutions was the "Perry English and Classical School," which began in about 1829. Harriet Massett was preceptress of this school, and F. Lethbridge her assistant. The school was continued until about the year 1845.

The "Perry Classical School," as it was called, was opened in Perry in 1838 by Prof. and Mrs. B. W. Carey Massett in the third story of the Bailey block. This was one of the most popular of the schools of this class, an average of 60 students being maintained during the terms of 1839. As it may be of interest to the student of today, the courses of instruction and the cost of each are given as advertised by the faculty:

Introductory Class—The Elements of Knowledge—Reading, Spelling, Writing and Arithmetic; per term of 12 weeks, \$3.00.

Junior Class—The Elements of Natural Science, English, Grammar, History, Astronomy, and Practical Book-Keeping; per quarter, \$4.00.

Senior Class—The Greek, Latin and French Languages, Algebra and Euclid's Elements; per quarter, \$5.00.

Industrial—Mrs. Massett gives lessons in making worsted and wax flowers, and in painting by theorem; each, extra, per quarter, \$3.00.

In 1845 this school passed into the control of Peres Brown, who continued it until 1847.

A school was opened by Mr. Josiah Andrews in the basement of the Baptist Church, which he equipped with many of the articles now used in Kindergarten work, at that time feat-

ures that had never been heard of. His wife's sister, Miss Harriet Frazer, was installed as teacher. A niece of Miss Frazer (Mrs. Maria Andrews Bailey) called the writer's attention to the fact that a black band was painted on the floor, on which the little folks marched to music.

A certain Miss Squires conducted a school similar to the above mentioned during the years 1835-7.

A "Select School for Young Ladies" was started in the village on April 12th, 1841, under the management of Miss Sarah Prentiss. Instruction was given for a few years in English, French and Spanish languages, drawing and painting.

An "Academical School" was opened in the village on May 6th, 1844, with J. C. Vandercook as Principal and Miss R. Griswold as Assistant. The courses of instruction have been given in a preceding chapter.

"The Perry Female Seminary" was established in May, 1843, and continued one year. The course of instruction embraced English, Mathematics, Languages, Vocal and Instrumental Music. The expenses incidental to conducting the school were defrayed by pro rata assessments upon the pupils. Miss Abigail C. Rogers was Principal; Miss Mary Parton, Assistant; and Mr. S. W. Hitchcock, French teacher.

A "select and Classical School for Boys" opened for the reception of students on November 28th, 1844, and continued until about 1849. N. G. Allen was Prinicpal. The school utilized a part of the old National Hotel as a school building.

Miss Harriet Hammond conducted a select school in Perry for a few years, beginning about 1849. A portion of the house now occupied by M. S. Sweet, corner of Lake and Short streets, was used by this institution. Among its students were Miss Helen Edgerly and Mrs. Albert Richards.

The little building now occupied by Charles Jenks as a second-hand store, on Covington street, was used in the early '50's as a private school. A certain Mrs. Skidmore taught the school during 1851 and 1852. Miss Sophronia Broughton taught here two or three years, and Miss Harriet Clark one year.

A Miss Sanborn established a private school on the corner of Watkins avenue and North Center street (the Perry Center road) in the late 30's. Jerome Edgerly was one of her students.

A Miss Clisbee opened a school on the corner of Lake and Leicester streets in 1862 or 1863. Among other students were W. H. Tuttle, Henry Nobles, Clara Macomber and Sarah Clark.

Misses Bullard and Andrews opened a select school on Sept. 30th, 1867, in the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church, teaching primary and common branches, higher English, modern languages, instrumental and vocal music, oil painting, gymnastics, etc.

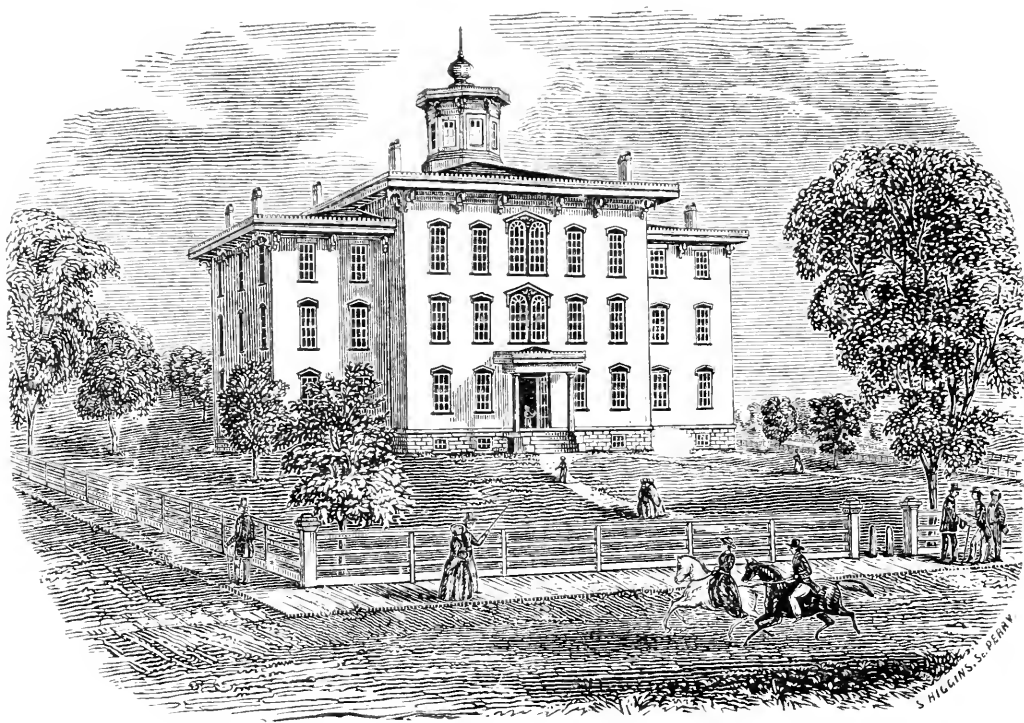
Among other private schools was one opened in December, 1846, by the late Mark A. Pierce. Mr. Pierce used the old Methodist chapel as a school building and closed it in 1848.

E. DeCost McKay and Lucinda Bradley taught select schools at Perry Center during 1855-6.

CHAPTER VIII

The Old Perry Academy, A Prominent Educational Institution That Was Built by Public Subscription and a Landmark for Many Years—Succeeded by Perry High School.

The erection of the old Perry Academy was begun during the summer of 1853. The corner-stone was laid with appropriate exercises on July 4th of that year, and the building was completed and dedicated to the purposes of education on the



4th of October, 1854, a great throng of people participating and many prominent men taking part in the exercises. The brick used in its construction was made in Mr. Moses' brick yard at West Perry.

At the dedication services the address was made by Prof. West, Principal of the Buffalo Female Seminary. Following is the program of the exercises of the day:

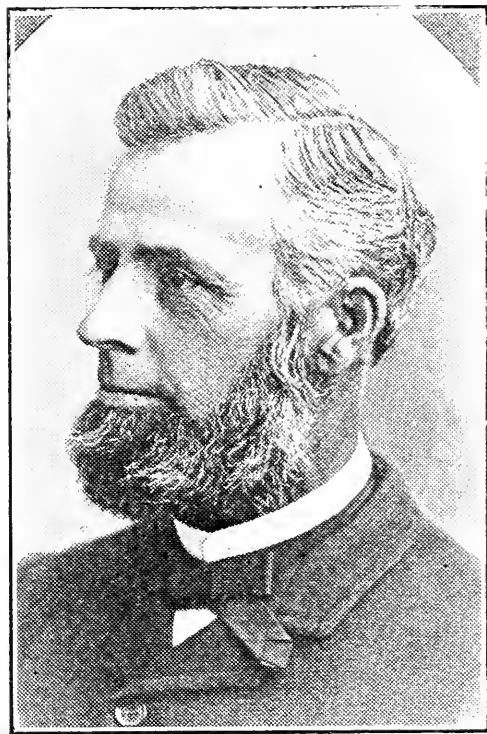
Reading of Scripture by Mr. Scott; reading of Dedication Hymn by Rev. Eben Francis, Universalist minister; singing of the same by the choir; prayer by Rev. Joseph R. Page, Presbyterian clergyman; music; address by Prof. West; presentation of keys to Prof. Dann by Mr. David Mitchell; remarks by Mr. Dann; presentation of a large bible by Mr. Mitchell on behalf of Miss Sherman and Miss Waterbury; presentation by Mr. Dann of a copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary; music; reading of the secretary's report of the affairs of the institution; benediction. In the evening the Philharmonic Society gave a grand concert. All of the exercises of the day passed off well and left universal good feeling among the people. The scholars made a splendid appearance.

The Academy was located on the site just to the rear of the present school building, and cost—including lot and equipment—\$16,750, which was raised by popular subscription. It was 87 feet wide, 58 feet deep, and three stories above the basement, which the Methodists afterward converted into a boarding hall for the accomodation of its non-resident students. Besides a large chapel in the third story, it contained about thirty recitation rooms. A Library was installed in the building for the convenience of the students. Additions were made thereto from time to time, and when it was removed to the new school building it contained about 1500 well-selected volumes. The Academy also contained a well-equipped Laboratory, the apparatus costing approximately \$600.

In receiving the keys of the building on Dedication Day, Prof. Dann said:

"I thank you for the distinguished honor you have conferred upon me....Of your own free will you have called me;

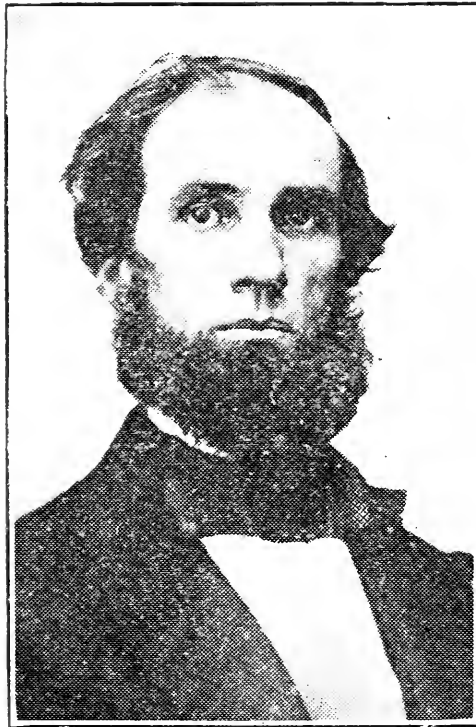
as freely I accept the trust ; and may God grant that whenever, and under whatever circumstances I may restore these keys, the insignia of my office, to their proper owners, they may be found as bright and untarnished as today. . . . I am neither ignorant nor unmindful of the responsibilities I thus assume. You make me at once the steward of your property invested here, the guard-



PROF. CHARLES H. DANN

ian of your children, the depository of your dearest hopes, your most invaluable possession. . I deem it unnecessary on this occasion to advance my views of education, to argue its importance, or to ask the sympathy and co-operation of this people in building up an institution here which shall be the pride of Perry, the glory of Wyoming, and the light of the land. . . . You open to me a building unsurpassed for beauty of plan, symmetry of construction and convenience of arrangement by any school edifice in the State. The structure as you see it today speaks

the praise of all whose time or means have contributed to its erection, more emphatically than any words of mine..If the furniture, library, apparatus, grounds, and teachers are made to correspond with the building itself, the world will be no longer left to inquire where Perry is....My friends, this institution is your foster-child; cherish it as such, remembering that your property invested here is still your own. It is a deposit in trust for your children's benefit. Let it be understood that this is the people's, and the whole people's school, and every honest individual of whatever creed, party or calling, feel that he has an interest here; that the success of this enterprise is identical with his own."



CYRUS MERRILL

Photo by Crocker

Among the men who were prominent in the efforts to secure the institution were: Hon. Rufus H. Smith, Dr. Mason G. Smith, Enos W. Frost, Hon. Wm. Mitchell, David Mitchell,

James S. Boughton, Austin Toan, Capt. Wm. Dolbeer, Erastus Bradley, Edward P. Clark, John Olin, Parris Olin, Edmund C. Bills, Robert Grisewood, Hon. Calvin P. Bailey, Shepard P. Bullard, Cyrus Merrill and others.

A complete and competent corps of instructors having been secured, the institution was opened for the reception of students on October 2d, 1854. The records show that on October 24th there were 211 pupils registered; on October 31st, 225; and on February 24th, 1855, there were 270 registered. The first faculty was composed of the following named: Chas. H. Dann, Principal; Andrew J. Rodman, Professor of Ancient Languages and Mathematics; Alexander Loos, Professor of Music and Modern Languages; Miss Jerusha Waterbury, Preceptress; Miss Sophronia Broughton, Drawing and Primary Department; Miss Amanda L. Mills, English; Miss Jessie Grieve and Miss Delia Curtice, assistant teachers.

In connection with this institution there were three literary societies, to one of which each student was assigned. Their object was "to promote the knowledge of the English language and to secure its proper use in reading, writing and speech." These societies were known as the Catonian, Newtonian and Beta Phi. There was also a society for the primary students known as the Sophronian.

On January 3d, 1855, the three literary societies held a prize contest. A fine audience was in attendance, and at the conclusion of the exercises Mr. Charles H. Dann and Miss Jerusha Waterbury entered the chapel, passed upon the platform, and were there, in the presence of nearly a thousand witnesses, joined in marriage, Rev. Joseph Page officiating. The newly married couple withdrew to the parlor of the institution to receive congratulations of their friends of whom nearly 300 were students. A wedding at the home of the bride was abandoned

for the purpose of giving a pleasing surprise to the Academy's pupils.

The Academy was organized upon a non-sectarian basis, but in 1856 it passed into the control of the Genesee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, remaining under supervision of the Conference until 1872. A Board of Visitors was appointed annually by the Conference to manage the interests of the school. Among the prominent members of the Conference who were especially active in furthering the interests of the school were: Rev. Gilbert DeLaMatyr, Dr. John B. Wentworth, and Rev. Sanford Hunt.

Prof Dann did not complete his school year, which was finished by Andrew J. Rodman, who was succeeded in 1855 by Prof. Gardner. In 1856-7, Rollin C. Welch was Principal, followed in 1858 by Prof. Martin R. Atkins, who was in charge until 1866.

Prof. Atkins is tenderly remembered by his pupils. His wife and daughters Florence and Octavia (the late Mrs. John B. Smallwood) taught during the same period. He was much beloved by his associate teachers as well as by the pupils. Miss Mary Green who was Preceptress for many years, paid the following tribute to Prof. Atkins:

“To speak as an associate teacher, it seems to me fitting to recall some of the qualities that went to make up his successful career. The gift of teaching was his in a large measure; he had the ability to impart knowledge and was always mindful of the apostolic injunction to ‘do good.’ He had abundant sympathy for all students, but especially for those to whom the way to knowledge was a way of self-denial. He knew by personal experience the hard places, and his words were always of encouragement. His was a rare comradeship, too. How he entered into the spirit of our fun. No voice rang out in heartier laughter than his, on the playground or in the assembly, over healthy sport. While he held firm the reins, there was an absence of



Born 1816

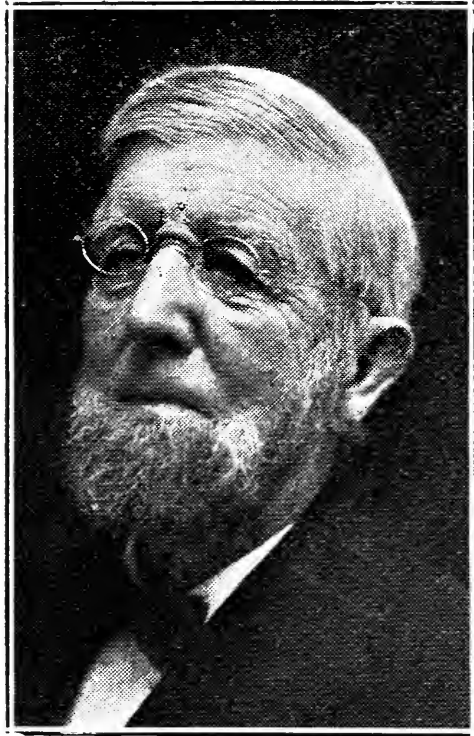
MARTIN ROCKWELL ATKINS

Died 1884

Monument erected in Hope Cemetery in 1897 by former pupils and friends.

—Photo by Crocker

forbidding formality. Though lion-like in appearance, we soon learned how accessible he was. Sincere, he did not pose for effect; and he enjoyed greatly the gifts that came to him without ceremony and parade—The crown of all was the Christian faith that inspired and directed their lives, manifest in intercourse with pupil and friend, the light within illuminating their teaching, making them workmen that need not be ashamed."



EDWIN M. READ

Born July 11, 1831 Died June 6, 1909

Prof. Edwin M. Read, who was Principal of the District Union School on Lake street, was engaged as instructor in mathematics by Prof. Atkins and became a member of the faculty of the Academy in 1859, a position which he filled with marked ability for several years.

Miss Mary Green was Preceptress for several years, associated with Prof. Atkins and Prof. Welch. She was extremely popular with the students and her personality is inseparably connected with the institution in the minds of those who came under her beneficent influence.



MISS MARY GREEN

(From an old, faded photograph.)

In addition to the Principals of the Academy as above referred to, other Principals were: Jason N. Fradenburgh, 1866; John D. Hammond, Sept. 1867; M. H. Paddock, October to December, 1867; Lowell L. Rogers, December, 1867 to 1870; Edwin Wildman, 1870 to 1872.

In consequence of the enlarged powers and liberal financial aid conferred by the State upon Union and district schools in the late '60's and early '70's, and the great advance made by such schools in their courses of study and methods of instruc-

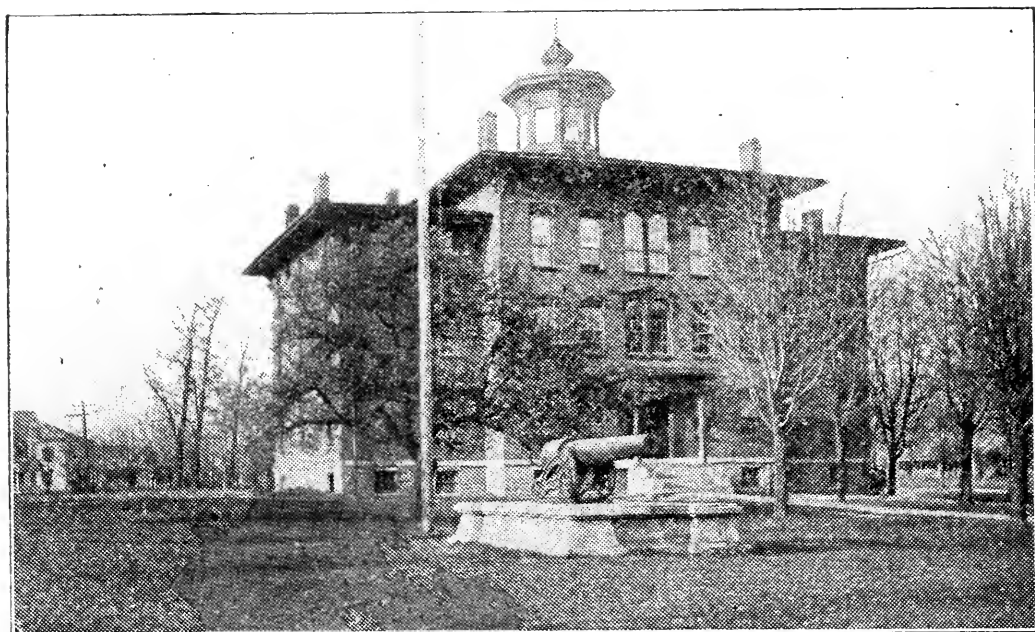
tion it became very difficult to maintain denominational schools operated like the Perry Academy on a tuition basis.

In 1872, the District Union School building, now known as "The Beehive," had become unfit for school purposes, and at a meeting of the citizens, held on April 12th, 1872, it was voted to appropriate \$5,500 for the purchase of a site and the erection of a new building. During the following week the project of purchasing the Perry Academy of the Methodists, instead of constructing a new building, was discussed, and at a special meeting called for the 23d of April, a committee consisting of H. A. Brigham, J. W. Chamberlain and George Tomlinson was appointed to confer with the trustees of the Academy. The result of their conference was the transfer of the Academy property to the district for \$4,500. A new name, the "Perry Free Academy," was given to the institution, and later it was called the "Perry Free Academy and Union School," and Perry Academy passed into history. Prof. Edwin Wildman was the first Principal and continued until June, 1873, in the Fall of that year being succeeded by Miss Ella S. Calligan, who was his Preceptress.

The reorganization in 1872 gave new impetus to the school. From that time on the work and efficiency steadily advanced, the growth in attendance at the school keeping pace with the rapid increase in the population of the town. The advance in academic work was duly recognized by the University of the State of New York when, in 1897, the school was designated by that body as the "Perry High School."

Referring to the "school exhibitions" of the old Academy days, which were the event of the year, the following reminiscences have been secured from various sources. Charades, tableaux, playlets, orations, essays, declamations, etc., were even more prominent than at the present time. The exhibitions were

inaugurated by Prof. Atkins and Miss Green. One of the first included a colloquy prepared by Miss Green, which she called "The Court of Fashion," in which Nellie Keeney, Alice Smith, Libbie Merrill and others took part, costumed in the gowns of their mothers and grandmothers and Aunt Olivia Sherman. The "May Queen" was a Summer success with its flowers and music; thirty girls took part and set the hearts of the young men all aqiver as they came up the stairs from the dressing



Perry Academy, later Perry High School, replaced by present building.

room in their dainty, fetching gowns. Our informant said: "I can see these young men now—Milo Olin, Romaine Moffett, Henry Cleveland, 'Wheat' Merrill, John Smallwood, Will Grieve, Charlie Dolbeer, Wesley and Robert Stainton, and even sly Prof. Read followed them with admiring glances. And there was Robert Dow; I remember him singing in the quartet, 'A Beacon Light to Glory,' and breaking the hearts of certain young

women when it was known that he would not return to school the next year."

From another source we learn that the grounds were quite different from the present time. On the east and south and partly on the west of the old Academy building was a fence; on the west and north, a hawthorne hedge. The front approach from the street was by a winding board walk; on the west side of the front grounds there was a well and pump. There were no trees on the front grounds, except two or three old apple trees west of the porch. An apple orchard occupied the west half of the rear grounds. What is now Hawthorne street was a roadway or lane, on the west side of which were pastures or other fields. "Ornamental branches" were taught by the late Mrs. R. T. Tuttle, Althea Rowley, Mrs. L. M. Wiles, Miss Mary Morton, Mrs. Mary (Brigham) Bemus, Anna Sutherland and Miss Flora Bradley. On one occasion the first prize for drawing was won by Willie D. Page, the prize consisting of a crayon head of a shaggy dog, entitled "Who Said Rats?" executed by the drawing teacher. The upper floor of the old building was occupied chiefly as the "chapel" or general assembly room, in which the whole student body gathered for morning religious service and a short homily by one of the professors or some visiting dignitary. In the chapel the regular Friday afternoon rhetoricals were held (also the closing and winter exhibitions) which were the crowning events of the year. The older pupils can vividly remember the drilling for these occasions and scent the odor of the frequent hemlock festoons which encircled the gallery and hung above the doorways. Some of the boys and girls were remarkably good in recitations. Ella Smallwood (Mrs. Robert Stainton) excelled in that line, and later, Jennie Smallwood (Mrs. V. H. Badger,) won the honors. Ida Chapin (Mrs. G. K. Smith) was particularly happy in her rendition of "An Order for a Picture;" Frank Wyckoff was thunder-

ously impressive, whether celebrating "The Ride of the Noble Six Hundred" or a Cataline hurling his "defi" at the Roman Senate. Doane Davis made Sheridan's Ride thrillingly real to boyish ears. Albert Brigham, grave and self-possessed in his prose selections, gave a hint of the substantial qualities that afterward gave eminence to his scholarship. Newton Wyckoff won rhetorical laurels on at least one occasion, when he received first prize at a public exhibition for the best declamation, and it is sad that such fame should have been diminished by the subsequent throwing of pebbles into the Principal's rain water tub. Charles King essayed to speak "The Indian Chief's Lament," and only got as far as the line

"I will go to my tent and lie down in despair"

when his memory failed him completely and he was obliged to follow the action of the chief and lament his own failure.

Principals who followed Miss Calligan were: Irving P. Bishop, 1878 to 1885; Jesse P. Worden, 1885 to 1888; Mary E. Catton, 1888 to 1897; Wm. H. Adams, 1897 to 1899; Herbert C. Jeffers, 1899 to 1902; M. J. Multer, 1902 to 1905; Clarence A. Fetterley, 1905 to 1906; Wm. H. McClelland, 1906.

The steady and rapid growth of the town naturally had its effect upon the public school. Within the eight years from 1894 to 1902 the village alone had more than doubled its population—from 1526 to 3346—and while the High School department was not seriously handicapped, the various grades became overcrowded, necessitating frequent alterations in the building to provide the required accommodations. These alterations for the enlargement of the rooms changed the original plan of the building and unavoidably weakened its supports.

The State Department of Education became insistent that greater facilities be provided, as the law was being violated by failure to furnish the required amount of floor space and air

space for the number of pupils in attendance. The Board of Education, composed of C. G. Clarke, president; G. M. Traber, J. N. Wyckoff, C. W. Rudd, Mrs. W. H. Herron, Mrs. J. W. Olin and Mrs. G. H. Peddle, trustees, had deferred action as long as possible, until in January, 1905, they were obliged by the crowded condition of the institution to make an extended statement in detail, showing the imperative necessity of providing additional school facilities, a problem that had vexed them for about three years and which they had met as far as possible by alterations as above referred to.



NEW PERRY HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

People who had been students in the institution 20 to 25 years previous to this time could not understand or appreciate the necessity confronting the Board, the building at that period being partly occupied by living rooms and having ample accom-

modations. They could not realize the changed conditions, and it was natural that many believed the Board's statements to be exaggerated. In consequence, strong opposition developed and even bitterness of feeling was engendered. They proposed to meet the condition by renting rooms outside, and various other expedients were suggested, all of which had already been carefully considered and found unsatisfactory by the Board. The most inexpensive proposition the Board was able to submit was a new High School building and necessary repairs and improvements upon the existing building to properly care for the grade pupils.

On January 31st, 1905, a special school meeting was held at the school building to discuss the proposition for the expenditure of \$33,000, as above outlined. There were about 500 people in attendance and the State was represented by W. C. Halliday of the Department of Education. Architect F. W. Kirkland of Rome, N. Y., who had been selected by the Board, was also present to answer questions and give information. W. D. Page was chairman of the meeting, and remarks were made by a number of people. After considerable discussion the meeting was adjourned to Saturday, February 4th., at the Town Hall, to vote upon the proposition, the polls to be open from 1 to 6 o'clock. At the time set, the plans for the proposed new building were on exhibition. There were 419 votes cast, of which 318 were in the negative and 101 in the affirmative, the majority against the proposition being 217. Of the number who voted, 119 were women.

Following the defeat of the proposition, Mr. D. H. Buckland in conversation with Trustee J. N. Wyckoff stated that the only feasible proposition was an entirely new building that would accommodate all of the pupils and also provide for future growth. Mr. Wyckoff suggested that Mr. Buckland circulate a petition and learn how many of the taxpayers held the same

view. Mr. Buckland accepted the suggestion and soon secured 99 signatures, representing business and professional people as well as other taxpayers.

Although there was no knowledge of it at the time, the view of Mr. Buckland appears to have been the same as that of Hon. Frank H. Wood, Chief of the Inspections Division of the State Department of Education, who wrote to the Board, under date of February 28th, 1905, and in his letter said that he had received reports from his inspectors stating that the building was unfit for the needs of the district, and he instructed the Board to call a special meeting on March 28th, to vote upon a proposition "to expend a sufficient sum of money to construct a new school building adequate in size for the accommodation of all of the children of school age residing in the district. to meet the present needs and to provide also for reasonable growth for years to come."

In accordance with the requirement of Chief Wood, a call was published for a special school meeting to be held at The Auditorium on March 28th, 1905, at 7:30 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of voting upon a proposition to expend \$50,000 for a new building. There was a small attendance at the meeting, of which Dr. P. S. Goodwin was chosen chairman. Mr. A. E. Hall of the Inspections Division of the State Department of Education was present to answer questions. Much antagonism was manifested, and after considerable discussion a motion was carried to adjourn to Saturday, April 1st, at the Town Hall, the polls to be open from 1 to 6 o'clock p. m.

Notwithstanding the fact that a circular letter signed by 30 of the business people of Perry, giving the qualifications of voters and urging them to turn out and vote in favor of the proposition, there were only 368 votes cast, 51 less than the number upon the first proposition submitted. There were 192

negative votes and 176 affirmative, a majority of 16 against the proposition.

By direction of A. E. Hall of the Inspections Division, another special meeting was called for May 12th, 1905, at The Auditorium, at 7:30 p. m., to vote again upon the proposition to expend \$50,000 for a new building, and the matter was explained in detail in the Perry Record, giving complete particulars of what had been done, what was demanded by the State Department and what must be done. In spite of all this, the opposition was persistent and bitter, and less than 200 people—a majority of them opponents—gathered at the meeting on May 12th. Hon. B. A. Nevins was chairman and introduced Mr. A. E. Hall, by whose authority the meeting had been called. Mr. Hall reviewed the requirements of the State Department and advised favorable action in the matter, concluding by saying that if it were otherwise he should recommend that the building be condemned. The hostile feeling manifested itself when a motion was made to adjourn to the second Tuesday after the annual meeting in August. An amendment was offered to adjourn to Saturday, May 13th, at the Town Hall, from 1 to 5 o'clock. When the questions were put the responses in each instance were so loud that it was impossible to decide which had carried. In order to be certain, the audience was requested to remain and vote again by rising. Three tellers were appointed—one for each section of the house—and the original motion to adjourn until the second Tuesday after the annual meeting in August was carried by a vote of 99 to 65.

Politics had been injected into the fight, considerable of the opposition being directed against the president of the Board by those who were antagonistic toward him personally, and by some the proposed building was sneeringly referred to as "Clarke's monument," the other members of the Board coming in for a share of the unjust criticism for simply endeavoring

to fulfill their responsibilities to the district and meet the requirements of the State Department.

In keeping up a fight, the opposition were merely adding to the expense, figuratively "cutting off their nose to spite their face," for the reason that if the people refused to provide the proper facilities the State money would be withheld, the building would be condemned and a new one would therefore be compulsory.

About 125 people attended the annual meeting held on August 1st, 1905, at which time Will W. Grieve was chosen chairman. The trustees' report showed that they had held 22 regular and special meetings and six informal meetings during the school year. In view of the criticism of the Board, among which was one that they had employed a "boy architect" in the person of Mr. Kirkland, a motion was made by Trustee G. M. Traber that a committee of five, composed of persons outside of the Board of Education, be appointed and empowered to engage a competent engineer or architect to make a thorough inspection of the school building and report whether it could be made to comply with the State law, and whether it would be advisable to try to enlarge the building; the report to be submitted before August 15th and the expense to be borne by the district. The motion was carried and the following named were nominated and elected as such committee: M. H. Olin, C. A. Carmichael, C. H. Toan, Charles Wise and J. E. Cole.

Nominations of nine different persons were made for the office of trustee to succeed Mr. C. G. Clarke and Mrs. W. H. Herron, who were also nominated to succeed themselves. Mr. Clarke declined a renomination. At the annual election on the following day, Charles Wise and George A. White were chosen as trustees, 386 votes being cast.

The committee elected to engage an architect to inspect the old building and make a report took no one into their confidence. They chose J. Foster Warner of Rochester, the architect of the Powers Hotel in that city and of many of the city's school buildings. He was a man of extended experience and one whose ability was widely known. Under date of August 7th, 1905, Mr. Warner made his report, from which the following excerpts are taken:

"I find the building in a very bad condition as regards the construction. The outside walls are badly bulged and cracked, and have been anchored together with tie rods; also, where the interior walls have been taken out, the supports at present are inadequate. As to whether the building could be made to comply with the State law, I should say that the expense of so doing would be entirely unwarranted, as it would amount almost to the entire reconstruction of the building; and I should advise against the enlarging of the same, as the present structure is not of sufficient value to warrant the expenditure of the amount of money necessary to provide the additional school facilities. If sufficient money was expended on the structure to bring it up to the requirements of the law, it would then accommodate a much smaller number of pupils than the present structure provides for. I enclose a copy of the instructions to school officers, which is sent out from the Commissioner of Education at Albany. You will observe that with the requirements necessary it will be practically impossible to alter the building to comply with the present law."

The special committee published the report and notified the public of a special meeting on August 14th, at 7:30 p. m., at the school building, at which time Mr. Warner was present in person to make his report and answer fully any questions that might be asked. C. H. Toan called the meeting to order, about 100 people being present. W. P. Andrus was chosen chairman and Mr. Warner was introduced. He answered numerous questions and the subject was thoroughly discussed for about two hours, Mr. Warner's statements substantiating fully those that

had been made by the Board of Education and proving the merit of their contention. the result of over a year of careful study of the matter.

On August 15th the question of expending \$50,000 for a new building was again submitted and carriages were used by those for and against it in getting out the vote. There were 483 ballots cast, of which 269 were in the affirmative and 214 in the negative, a majority of 55 in favor of the proposition. Some of the opposition were hard losers, claiming that illegal votes had been cast, but the only illegal voter discovered was a man who had made the loudest complaint and who had been one of the most active opponents.

Architect Warner highly commended the plans that had been prepared by Architect Kirkland. Eleven bids were received for the work, and early in May, 1906, the contract for construction was let to the Mt. Morris Lumber Co., of Mt. Morris, N. Y., at their bid of \$44,130.28, exclusive of heating and plumbing.

The corner-stone was laid on August 31st, 1906, the ceremonies opening with a selection by the Casino Orchestra and prayer by Rev. C. H. Dibble of Perry. Addresses were made by John B. Smallwood of Warsaw and M. A. Lovejoy, Esq., of Perry, former pupils of Perry Academy. Mr. Lovejoy gave a brief historical sketch and he was followed by Rev. Mr. Dibble, who made congratulatory remarks. The new principal, Prof. W. H. McClelland, was then introduced, and among other things he said: "I have come to Perry with heart and soul in my work. Whatever is of interest to Perry is of interest to me. I am a servant of the best interests of the people and villageI want to commend you for this great undertaking of erecting this splendid monument to the educational interests of this community. Too much praise cannot be given to the members.

of the Board of Education who have so willingly given their time and thought to plan for the interest of this and future generations. We shall be proud of the magnificent new building, its commodious rooms, spacious halls, heating and ventilating systems, its large and well-equipped laboratories. These things, with an efficient corps of teachers and the harmonious working of teachers, parents and the Board of Education, will insure us a school system second to none in the State."

Notwithstanding it was thought that the new building would be large enough for present and future needs, four years after its completion it was found necessary to finish off four rooms in the attic on the third floor, and other enlarged facilities were also made in the basement of the building. The words of Prof. McClelland were prophetic, as the present position of the institution testifies.

The new building was erected in front of the old one, permitting the use of the old structure until the new one was completed, thus avoiding interruption of the school work and saving the expense of using outside quarters. It was with misgivings that the Board of Education decided to erect the new school in front of the old one and thus shorten the beautiful, long approach, with its attractive grove on the north and its spacious lawn on the south, to which they were endeared by sentiment, but utility and economy were practical considerations that they could not afford to ignore.

With the community spirit that is characteristic, when the new edifice began to take shape and its beauty and completeness began to be realized, the bitterness and antagonism disappeared and loyalty to Perry and its institutions again became manifest, and the wisdom of those who fought for the project was admitted, even by their opponents. The school today has the united support of citizens and stands as a monument of Perry's enterprise and progressiveness.

The following named are graduates of Perry High School, belonging to the Alumni Association, which was formed in 1885. Those marked by an * are deceased.

1877—Sarah Clark (Mrs. F. H. Austin.)

1878—Nellie Wheeler (Mrs. Fred B. Godfrey,) Augusta Palmer, Lillie Palmer (Mrs. W. L. Chapin,) James Newton Wyckoff.

1879—Reta Butler (Mrs. Wm. Hoyt,) *Myra Jenks (Mrs. W. Eugene Hamlin.)

1880—No class.

1881—Cyrus Fitch, Nannie Allen (Mrs. Wm. Thorpe,) Nettie Handley, Nellie Starks.

1882—C. Minot Griffith, Celia E. Chamberlain (Mrs. J. T. Cooley,) Stella C. Wylie (Mrs. C. H. Toan,) *Eva J. Cole.

1883—*Edward P. Purcell, Garrett D. Roche, Charles L. Shepard, Elva R. Kniffin (Mrs. C. Minot Griffith,) Clara B. Lacy (Mrs. Herman Lewis.)

1884—Addie E. Burns (Mrs. M. H. Jackson,) *Julia F. Westlake (Mrs. D. W. Babcock.)

1885—Martha A. Catton (Mrs. Daniel Rich,) Etta A. Chamberlain, Dora L. Homan (Mrs. R. G. Stainton,) Lida M. Lucas (Mrs. J. Stewart,) *Mary L. Read (Mrs. Arthur Pitkin,) Maud E. Fisk, Mary Wylie, Flora S. Sheldon (Mrs. G. C. Fox.)

1886—John Barry, Charles E. Benedict, Charles A. Bullard, Wm. G. Roche, Kate C. Griffith (Mrs. Fred W. Smith,) Carrie D. Read (Mrs. C. G. Clarke,) Jennie M. Wheeler (Mrs. Edward Gray.)

1887—*Hiram Howden, Albert Hull, Eugene Karn, Charles A. Owen, Clara A. Benedict, Stella M. Heath (Mrs. Allen Hathaway,) Georgia Rutherford, *Clara C. Surdam, Grace Utter (Mrs. W. F. Pettes.)

1888—Charles S. Benedict, Luther C. Crippen, Wm. Little-dyke, Wm. F. Pettes, Jessie Gates.

1889—Wm. W. Grieve, Allen Hathaway, Mark A. Macomber, Wm. C. Parler, Jennie M. Bills (Mrs. Fred Watkins,) Kate B. Gates (Mrs. D. H. Gates,) *Mary B. Rudgers (Mrs. M. C. Hutton,) *Caroline E. Sanford (Mrs. D. E. Foskett,) Hattie B. Tabor (Mrs. A. Armour,) Edna A. Tallman, Jessie Tucker (Mrs. W. T. Olin,) Addie M. Whalen (Mrs. T. T. Mangan.)

1890—Mary C. Kane, James B. Griffith, Mary E. Smith, A. Gould White, *May Wilcox, *Myron H. Luce.

1891—John L. Washburn, Marion E. Dow, (Mrs. A. E. Menzie,) *Nora E. Stainton, Ida E. Watrous, Glenn Martin, Grace G. Willey (Mrs. G. H. Bemis,) Minnie Buttre (Mrs. Leland Pixley,) Richard G. Benedict, *Lua M. Green (Mrs. L. A. Paschke,) Guy C. Shaw, Maggie Lacey (Mrs. Clarence Widener,) Edith M. McIntyre (Mrs. Guy Watrous,) Marcella M. Roche, Maud E. Jenks, Olean S. Green (Mrs. G. H. Peddle,) Alton A. Richardson, *Cera A. Chapin, *Nellie J. Burns, Fred C. Kimball.

1892—Julia E. Rude (Mrs. Ed. Clark,) Roy B. Dow, Nellie B. Jenks (Mrs. R. M. Olin,) *Herbert A. Ensign, George J. Grieve, Nellie A. Heath (Mrs. M. A. Macomber,) Anna M. Sanderson (Mrs. Frank Coleman.)

1893—Isabelle S. Lewing (Mrs. R. W. How,) Fred M. Washburn, Frances M. Bernard, Kittie M. Smith (Mrs. R. S. Collyer,) *Ida M. Handyside (Mrs. Charles C. Chase,) Flora A. Hodge, Lulu A. Ward (Mrs. Arthur Windsor,) Fannie C. Fisher (Mrs. Walter Jones,) Alfred S. Wilcox, Emma E. Hack (Mrs. W. C. Sahrle,) Mary VanHouten (Mrs. S. W. Hart.)

1894—Lloyd P. Benedict, Carl Stainton, Harry Robinson, Romaine Wallace, Flora Kimball, Madge Dow, Luie Sweet (Mrs. Charles E. Rockwood,) Elizabeth Willey (Mrs. George Drake,) Florence Andrews (Mrs. Harvey Webber,) Edith McWithey (Mrs. David J. McMaster,) Bessie E. Thurston.

1895—Harriet Hamilton (Mrs. Herbert Slight,) Gertrude Armstrong (Mrs. E. J. Webster,) Eva Lewis, Maude Knowlton, Kathryn Bernard (Mrs. L. P. Benedict,) George S. Macomber, Lloyd G. Stainton, Flora M. Cronkhite (Mrs. Lewis Allen,) Marcus H. Butler, George H. Russell, Fannie S. Alverson (Mrs. Wm. McMahon,) Charles M. Benedict, Griffith Gardner, Edwin M. Read, Elizabeth Halligan, John E. Stainton.

1896—Holland E. Benedict, Marie A. Wildman (Mrs. John McKecown,) Karl Y. Sharpsteen, Flora A. Weilman (Mrs. Fred Smith,) Gertrude E. Stainton (Mrs. D. H. Allen,) Dora E. Cross (Mrs. Benjamin White,) Alice J. Hough, M. Louise O'Brien, Jessie M. Russell, Edith Smith.

1897—Anna M. Dibble, *Charles R. Gregg, Wm. E. Smith, C. Leslie Robinson, Charles E. Duffy, Stacey B. Belden.

1898—No class.

1899—Roscoe C. Parker, A. Stanley Copeland, Isabelle Cole, L. May Meter, Frank G. Clifford, W. Carlton Buckland, Mary A. Heugh (Mrs. Charles Heist,) Carrie L. Howell (Mrs. Clarence Hull,) Mark J. Nevins, Floyd M. McIntyre, Lloyd M. McIntyre, Benson F. Tallman, Albert R. Watrous, Clarence J. Whalen, Arthur W. Whalen, *Ella Smith.

1900—Hope Benedict (Mrs. R. E. Dildine,) Myrtle Clark, Minnie Kennedy.

1901—Warren Badger, Georgia Beardsley (Mrs. Lloyd Burlingham,) Cora Clifford, M. Agnes Cole (Mrs. H. C. White-nack,) Laura Cole (Mrs. Carl Buckland,) Harry B. Nevins, *Lena C. Rudgers, Blanche A. Smith (Mrs. Leslie Robinson,) Daisy Stowell (Mrs. W. W. Laine,) Evelyn Sutherland (Mrs. C. A. McIntyre,) Florence M. Tallman (Mrs. Lucien Crandall.)

1902—Julia May Butler (Mrs. Floyd Reeves,) Teresa Cullinan, Bessie Dalrymple (Mrs. L. G. Stainton,) Jessie Howlett (Mrs. Roy Calkins,) Roy A. Spellicy, M. Frances Tallman (Mrs. Robert Dunlop,) Daisy R. Toal (Mrs. E. D. Olin,) Gladys Van-Dresser, Patrick Whalen, Isabelle White, Elizabeth Wildman, Bessie Macomber (Mrs. A. R. Watrous,) Ella Parker, *Grace Sowerby (Mrs. C. F. Holcombe.)

1903—Mary Chace, Alice Dow, Irvin Badger, Andrew Boyd, Blanche Lillibridge, Lewis Toan, George Parker, Bessie Higgins (Mrs. A. C. Stowell,) Irene Tomlinson (Mrs. Theron Jackson,) Clara Ellsworth, Ada Smith (Mrs. Harry Foskett,) Laura Sharpsteen, Harry Hubbard, Jennie Sullivan (Mrs. John Boyd,) Mabel Knowlton.

1904—Genevieve Watson (Mrs. F. D. Roberts,) Clarence White, Agnes Tomlinson, James Herron, Grace Cornwell (Mrs. Charles Coleman,) Claude Tempest, Agnes Butler, George

Gregg, Maude Croal (Mrs. German Olin,) Louis Brigham, Esther Macomber (Mrs. Lloyd McIntyre,) Carlos J. Toan, Robert W. Calkins, *Marleah Waldo.

1905—Calla Brown (Mrs. Cale Herry,) May Brown, Agnes Carey, R. Ethel Clark, Clara A. Edgerly (Mrs. George M. C. Parker,) Lucy Silver, Bessie Traber, Madge VanDresser (Mrs. L. B. Swift,) Harold Axtell, Cale Herry, John Macomber, Wm. Martin, Cecil Thompson.

1906—M. Edna Hutton (Mrs. John Butler,) Bessie Hadsell, Edna Tuttle, Sadie Spellicy (Mrs. Archie Brink,) Louis Stryker, Willard Nevins, Stella Copeland.

1907—Thomas Toan, Alice Edgerly, Hilda Pownall (Mrs. Carroll,) Burr Cornwell, George Ernest White.

1908—Marcella Craven, Lyle Brown, Florence Slack, Elizabeth Kershaw (Mrs. J. D. Gilmore,) Marion Palmer (Mrs. Ralph Traber,) Benjamin Smith, Earl Watson, Ethel Waldo (Mrs. M. E. Laird.)

1909—Harry Tallman, Gertrude Dean (Mrs. Walter Weeks,) Welles Ward, Alice Toole, Irene Allen, Ina Bennett (Mrs. Harold Littledyke,) Archie Butler, Elva Cornwell (Mrs. Carl Makeley,) Madge Croal, Mary Macomber (Mrs. Wm. Martin,) Edith Silvermail (Mrs. Irving Eaton,) Hugh Axtell, Caroline Brian, Carl Read Clarke, Mildred Cornwell (Mrs. Leigh Clark,) Mary Mitchell, Dolbeer Smith, Roy Whipple.

1910—Florence Eckert, Merle Butler, Elizabeth Wise, Russell Fish, Wm. Wusthof, Doris Dysinger (Mrs. Harry Coker,) Leola Shaw, Dell Clark, Howard Wellman, Lillian Clark (Mrs. Frank Toal,) Carl Digel, Ruth Chapin, Clara Kelly (Mrs. John Adrian,) Josephine Watson (Mrs. C. S. Southwick,) Margaret Campbell (Mrs. Burr Cronwell,) Blanche VanValkenburg (Mrs. Harry Snyder,) Pratt Badger, Olive Littledyke (Mrs. Clifford Rice,) Mabel Walton.

1911—Edna Brian, Ruth Bennett, Hazel Badgero, Fanny Cone (Mrs. Walter Scott,) Mary Clarke, Winnifred Graves, Albert Herry, Myron Ogden, Florence Parker, Roy Richardson, Maynard Rudd, Lucile Smith, Ethobur Snyder, Mary Toan, Sprague Tomlinson.

1912—Fred Farr, Edith Wilcox, Mary McClurg, Harold

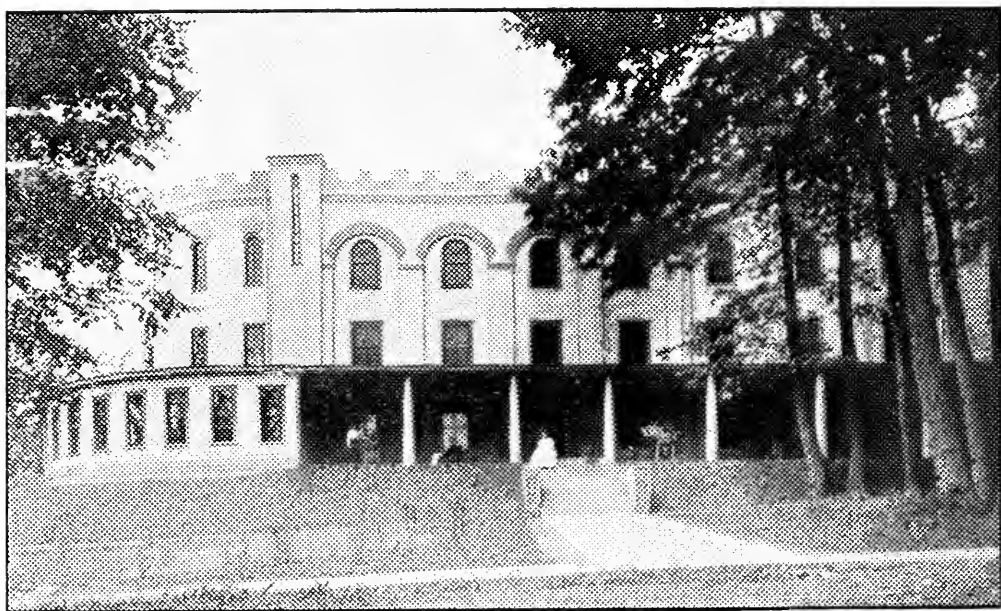
Davis, Elsie Peck, Mae Porter (Mrs. O. Thomas,) Ethel Caswell, George Bauer, Mildred Cole, Ruth Cook, Francisca Martinez, Buell Tallman, Helen Sweet, Nellie Bush, Helen Hager, Harry Nye, Lenna Royce, Genevieve Rodgers, Edna Sullivan, Mae Ward, Ethel Wright.

1913—Helen Allen, Marguerite Barber (Mrs. Harlow Beckwith, Foster Brown, H. Louise Clark, Miriam Daniells, Reba Ganoung, Frances Hamlin, Winnifred Hutton, Gladys Kelly, Florence Miller, Carrie Morris, Keyes Page, Isabelle Scheer, Mina Slocum, Harold Slocum, Francis Terry, Marian Watrous (Mrs. Gordon Draper,) Lois Watson, Leon Wellman, Ruby Wickings, Edith Wright, James Wyckoff.

1914—Fleta Badgero, Madge Buttles, Agnes Campbell, Teresa Carey, Nellie Carpenter, Laura Cronin, Ethel Morris, Blanche Otis, Jane Post, Isabelle Slack, Lucy Smith, Sarah Sweet, Ruby Watson.

On February 16th, 1915, the buildings occupied by the Chamberlain Military Institute at Randolph, N. Y., were practically destroyed by fire. Messrs. Templeton & Davidson of the Silver Lake Hotel Co., who had been conducting the Recreation Inn at Silver Lake, just south of the Assembly grounds, conceived the idea that the property would make an ideal location for the school, advantageous to them as a year-'round institution for their property, one that would bring Silver Lake and Perry into greater prominence, and a place where the school could inaugurate and conduct a naval branch as well as its military institution, and develop into a school of magnitude and importance. Accordingly, they got in touch with the superintendent, Col. James E. Dunn, who came and looked over the property, and arrangements were made between him, the Silver Lake Hotel Co. and the Chamber of Commerce of Perry whereby he brought his faculty and student body, numbering about 40 in all, to the lake, and opened the school on April 5th, 1915, following the Easter vacation. The name of the organization

was changed to the "Silver Lake Military and Naval School of Perry, N. Y.," by permission of the State Board of Regents, and application was made to the Federal Government for a



naval equipment as authorized by Act of Congress. The school began with bright prospects for substantial growth and indications that it would prove to be a valuable educational factor as well as an attractive advertisement of this locality.

CHAPTER IX

Pioneer Struggles to Establish Church Organizations Representing their Religious Affiliations—Their Development, Growth and Accomplishments.

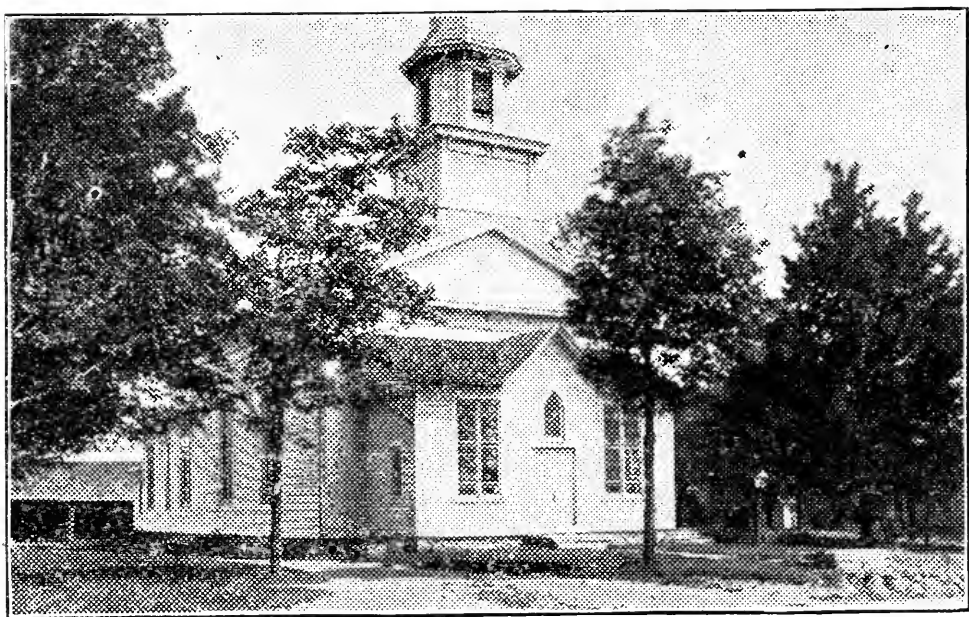
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PERRY CENTER

The first religious service in the town was held in 1813 at Perry Center by the Rev. Mr. Herrick of the Baptist denomination, while on his retreat from Buffalo, following its destruction by the Indians during the war then in progress. In 1814 the little hamlet was visited by Rev. Oliver Ayer and Rev. Silas Hubbard, missionaries sent out by the Home Missionary Society of Connecticut. These men gathered a few parishioners together and, on the 28th of June, 1814, in a log house, the residence of one of the members, they formally organized the first church society in the town of Perry, composed of eight members. These were: Samuel Howard, Ralph Ward, Mrs. Lorian Ward, Jabez Ward, Miss Catey Ward, Hervey Butler, Mrs. Sally Butler and a Miss Roxa Carpenter, all of them natives of Massachusetts or Connecticut.

Samuel Howard died on April 2d, 1819, aged 66 years, this being the first death among the original members. Ralph Ward died on October 4th, 1822, at the age of 60 years. His wife, Lorian Ward, survived him about ten years, dying in 1832. Jabez Ward, the beloved physician, was elected a deacon at the organization of the church and held the office until his death in 1843. Miss Catey Ward lived to be 73 years of age, dying in 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Hervey Butler enjoyed the fellowship of the church but two years, removing from the town in 1816. He was associated with Dr. Ward as a deacon of the church. Miss Roxa Carpenter, the eighth and last of the original mem-

bers, accompanied the family of Samuel Howard from Connecticut to Perry and afterward became the wife of Samuel Howard, Jr., who in 1843 was elected deacon, in which office he was particularly useful to the church until his death in 1863. Mrs. Roxa Carpenter Howard was the last but one of the original members of the church when she died in 1862, aged 75 years.

The church was organized as a Congregational church, but two years later—in 1816—the members voted that “it is expedient for this church to be united with the Geneva Presbytery,



but to retain the Congregational form of government.” The same year, therefore, the church became united on the “accommodation plan” with the Presbytery of Geneva. It remained under that supervision until September, 1831, when the church, after a thorough inquiry into the feelings and judgment of the officers and members, unanimously resolved “that it is expedient that the connection between this church and the Presbytery

be dissolved." Accordingly, it was regularly dismissed from the Presbytery on the 22d of September of that year. Since that time it has remained Congregational in all of its relationships.

Services were first held in the log homes of the settlers; then, as the congregation grew, they were held in Deacon Howard's barn; and after that, for a time in the Taylor school house on the first corner west of the Center. This had been built with a view to the needs of the church society, with ascending floor and high backed seats arranged in "slip" form, with two aisles extending to the back seat, reserved for the choir, which led the congregational singing. This was a great improvement upon the barn in which they had previously worshiped.

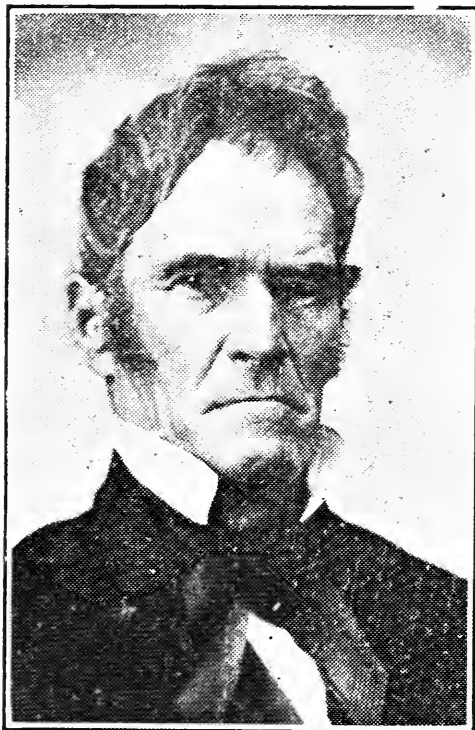
Miss D. E. Sheldon, in a reminiscence written many years ago to the home church and community, said: "The almost universal mode of conveyance for those who could not walk to the services, was the lumber wagon, without spring of box or seat, drawn by oxen, that were chained in long rows to the corners of the rail fence in front of the school house. A board placed across the top of the wagon box sufficed for the more sturdy members of the household, while the feeble and delicate ones were supplied with the old-fashioned straight-backed, splint-seated chairs. These were removed within the school house and arranged in rows around the ample fireplace, and in the cloak room on the north side of it, for the accommodation of the mothers with their little ones, while the fathers took the older ones with them into the hard uncushioned seats. Suspended from the chair pommels were always to be found spacious reticules containing the family lunch for the noonday intermission between the two services. In winter the lumber wagon was exchanged for the log sled, with bundles of straw for seats for the wee ones, who were snugly wrapped in the warm homespun garments of their mothers' manufacture. Once, though at a later date when the traveling was impassible for either wagon

or sleigh, I knew a stoneboat to be substituted to convey to a Thanksgiving service a large family, whom neither the inclemency of the weather nor the horrible condition of the roads could deter from the anticipated reunion feast. When the family possessions became sufficiently ample to warrant the purchase of a horse, the mother, with one child behind and clinging to her, and another in her lap, would ride on horseback with the indispensable reticule hanging upon the horn of the saddle, while the father walked by the side of the little group. When the second horse was secured, making a span, our highest ambitions were fully realized; but oh, the joltings which the long-coveted accelerated speed gave to them in those same springless wagons. I sometimes question, Do the worshipers of the present generation, enjoying as they do, the stated ministration of the Word in their spacious house of worship, with its easy cushioned seats and comfortable modes of conveyance to and from the Sabbath and week day services, measure their efforts and sacrifices by their increased privileges and opportunities?"

Sarah Ward, daughter of Dr. Jabez Ward, has written an account of the theology of the Perry Center community, and tells also of how carefully the customs of their former New England homes were maintained. "Some of these customs were the strict 'keeping' of Saturday night as the beginning of holy time; the nightly ringing of the curfew, the tolling of the bell upon the death of anyone in the parish—all of these were punctiliously observed."

Deacon Sheldon, Jabez Ward, and Phicol M. Ward would often read sermons in the days when the church had no supply pastor. Rev. Edmund Ingals, Jr., came in 1816 and was the first regular appointed pastor of the church. He was succeeded by Rev. Elihu Mason, who was pastor during 1817, and afterward in 1820. Rev. Edward Andrews was pastor for six months

during 1819, but there was no pastor during the period outside of that time. Then followed Rev. Samuel T. Mills, May 1821, to December 1824; Rev. Eli S. Hunter, July 1825-6; Rev. Jonathan Sheldon, 1826-7; Rev. Lot B. Sullivan, 1827-8; Rev. Dexter



PHICOL MUNRO WARD

He was the son of Ralph and Lorian Butler Ward, and was born at New Marlboro, Mass., May 14, 1799, and died at Perry Center, December 5th, 1873. He served as Supervisor from this town during the years 1831-32-33, and was for many years a Justice of the Peace.

Clary 1828 and six months in 1829. During the brief ministry of Mr. Clary, a great revival attended his labors and many people were added to the church. It was during his ministry, in the Spring of 1828, a movement was made toward building a church edifice. A subscription paper bearing date of April

20th of that year was circulated; 100 names were signed to the paper and the total amount subscribed was \$2,656.00. Work on the building was begun at once, and when the foundation walls had been laid and the frame was ready for "the raising" and the workmen were on hand, it is an incident worthy of record that all of the children from the surrounding country assembled at the invitation of Rev. Mr. Clary, and being arranged in regular order on the sills of the building about to be erected, Mr. Clary standing in their midst, after a few words addressed to those assembled, prayed for God's blessing upon the enterprise on which they had entered, and especially for the children there assembled.

The house was completed and dedicated on March 4th, 1830, Rev. Julius Steele of Warsaw preaching the dedicatory sermon. In 1856 the building was quite extensively repaired and a lecture room was added. The re-dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. J. E. Nassau, also of Warsaw. Minor repairs were made from time to time until in 1900 the building was rejuvenated. The service of re-opening and re-dedication was held on Jan. 13th, 1901; the sermon was given by Rev. H. E. Gurney of Warsaw.

For a number of years the church owned no parsonage. In 1863, the place known as the "Moss place," now owned and occupied by D. J. Powell, was purchased, and for 13 years was used as the manse. In 1876 this property was sold, a portion of the lot being retained, and a new parsonage and barn were built, which have since served the purpose.

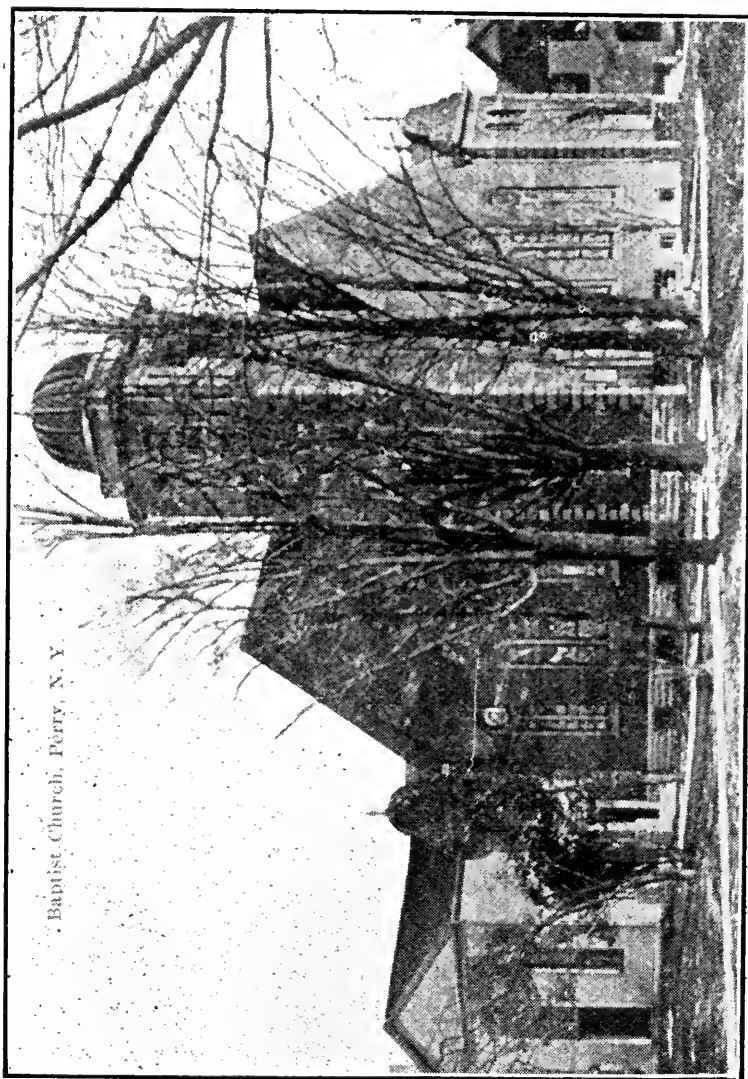
The growth of the church seems to have been steady. To the eight persons who were the charter members, 732 have been added. In 1825, the membership numbered 35; in 1834, about 125; in 1868, there were 96; in 1889, at the 75th anniversary, they numbered about 100, and at the present time 189.

The Sabbath School numbers about 150, has a live Home Department and several organized classes. In 1914, four foreign students were being supported by these classes and several other worthy objects were being helped by its gifts. A Bible class was formed by Deacon H. Sheldon in about the year 1829. The Ladies' Benevolent Society, which is believed to be the oldest organization of its kind in the State, was formed in 1824, and has had a continuous existence ever since. When the Woman's Home Missionary Union of the State was organized, this society became an auxiliary without changing its constitution under which it had worked for so many years.

In 1822, a number of the members of this church withdrew and organized the Presbyterian Church of Perry, but after a few years, little progress having been made, they returned to the mother church. In 1834, however, a second effort was made, which soon developed into a strong church society.

The others who have been pastors of the Congregational Church since Rev. Mr. Clary are: Revs. Wm. P. Jackson, three months in 1829; Samuel H. Gridley, D. D., 1830-6; Orrin Brown, 1836; Caleb Burge, M. D., 1837-8; George W. Newcomb, 1838-40; John Scott, 1840-1; George W. Gridley, 1842; Wales Tilston, 1843-4; Philo Canfield, 1845-8; Mason Mear Smith, three months in 1848; Thomas M. Hodgman, 1848-58; George J. Means, 1859-63; Isaac N. Ely, July to December, 1863; Claudius B. Lord, 1864-66; James P. Root, 1866-76; W. C. Sexton, 1876-78; Edgar Perkins, 1878-80; E. H. Martin, 1880-85; J. W. Grush, 1885-93; J. C. Bergmann, 1893-4; J. J. Shingler, 1895-7; D. A. Blose, 1897-99; F. E. Dark, 1899-1902; F. A. Kimberly, Nov. 1902, and since that time.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



Among the early settlers of the Town of Perry were a number of families and individuals known as belonging to the Baptist denomination, but not in sufficient numbers, in their estimation, to warrant their assuming the responsibilities of a

distinct church. A few of them united with the Middlebury church at Wyoming, which, at this period, was the nearest church of the Baptist denomination. Others worshiped with the Presbyterian society at Perry Center. Thus they continued to worship until September, 1816, when the Baptists of the community united in a Conference to be known as "The First Baptist Society of Perry," in which organization they continued until November 5th, 1818, when they were publicly recognized as a Church of Christ.

During the existence of the Conference—from September, 1816, to November 5th, 1818—the members met regularly for worship on the Sabbath and for Conference on the last Saturday of each month. They had occasional preaching by elders Hartwell, Kelsey, Brown and Wisner, through whose efforts five were added to the little number by baptism, the first of whom was David Carlisle by Elder Kelsey. A few were also received by letter from other churches.

On the 25th of October, 1818, the following named people met according to previous notice and adopted articles of faith and practice, also a church covenant, and proceeded to organize themselves into a regular Baptist Church: Solomon Squires, John Bowen, Beriah Bowers, David Carlisle, Thomas E. Parmerly, Peter Clark, Samuel Waldo, Martha Bartlett, Hannah Finch, Betsey Leonard, Anna Squires, Sarah Parmerly, Clarinda Bowers and Nancy Bowers. Out of the 14 original members, Mr. Waldo remained active in the work of this church until the formation of the Leicester Street Baptist Society in 1879, at which time he withdrew and joined that organization, remaining an active member until his death in July, 1883. Mr. Waldo and his wife arrived in Perry on May 3d, 1816, after a three weeks journey from their former home in Vermont, and it is said, upon his arrival his possessions comprised a wife, a horse, an axe, and \$9 in money. Prior to leaving Vermont, Mr.

and Mrs. Waldo had affiliated with the Baptist society there. They brought their church letters with them, and soon after their arrival, joined the Middlebury church at Wyoming, remaining members of that society until the formation of the local organization.

On the 5th of November, 1818, the following named members of the churches of Leicester, Warsaw and Gainesville, viz: Rev. Daniel McBride, Deacons Wm. Wiseman and Joseph Porter, Enoch Weller, Josiah Waite, John Reddish and Charles Tallman met in council at the home of John Bowers and publicly recognized the church by extending to it the hand of fellowship by Rev. Mr. McBride. Samuel Waldo was appointed Clerk of the church at this meeting, and during the next year, John Bowers was appointed the first deacon. Rev. Mr. Wisner, the first pastor of the church, continued his labors about one year, receiving for his services such donations as his parishioners in their poverty were able to bestow. He was succeeded by Rev. Jesse Brown on June 3d, 1820, who also labored with the church one year, after which it was supplied occasionally by Rev. Joshua Bradley and others, until August 25th, 1822, when it became a branch of the First Baptist Church of Middlebury.

During the first five years of the church history, there were seven additions by baptism, the first of whom was Sarah Bentley, who was baptized by Rev. Mr. Wisner on August 8th, 1819. Five were received by letter and one was excluded. The connection with the Middlebury church as a branch continued from August 25th, 1822, to October 1st, 1825. The members, however, continued to hold their meetings and had occasional preaching by the pastor of the Middlebury church, Rev. Mr. Tuttle, and others.

On the 1st of October, 1825, the church was reorganized and recognized as an independent Baptist Church at a council

convened at Perry, at which the churches at Middlebury, Covington, Warsaw, Gainesville and Nunda were represented. Rev. David Bernard preached the sermon. The following named were the members of the church under the reorganization: Joshua Calkins, Silas Rawson, Philip Sparling, John Hollenbeck, Beriah Bowers, Daniel Calkins, Joshua Calkins, Jr., Samuel Waldo, Willard J. Chapin, Abram Wiles, Alva Stockwell, Orlan Griffis, Elizabeth Calkins, Bethena Rawson, ——— Sparling, Jemima Hollenbeck, Maria Olin, Amanda Edgerly, Virtue Kelsey, Sarah Phoenix, Martha Bartlett, Tabitha Calkins, Selina White, Sally Wiles, Cynthia Sanford, Mercy Calkins, Susan Stillwell, Catherine Sparling, Sally Hall, Anna Bowers, Samantha Stockwell, Dorcas Calkins, Abigail Irish, a total of 33. Upon the reorganization, Willard J. Chapin was appointed clerk and held the office until his death in 1852.

In 1826, Rev. Richard H. Benedict became pastor, and the real growth of the church began. During the two years of his pastorate, 84 members were added to the church. In February, 1828, he was succeeded by Rev. Noah Barrell. In the early part of his pastorate the subject of Free Masonry caused considerable agitation in the church, it being ascertained that several of the members were also members of the Masonic fraternity. In order to allay all excitement and satisfy the ones who were not members of the order, the following renunciation was drawn up at the covenant meeting on March 1st, 1828, and signed by the members who had formed a connection with the Masonic order: "We, the undersigned members of the Baptist Church in Perry, having been members of the Masonic institution, and having some time since voluntarily withdrawn from the same, do hereby renounce our connection with the Masonic institution and fraternity, and are determined never to uphold or support Free Masonry." Signed by John Calkins, Matthew Burroughs, Samuel F. Phoenix, Willard J. Chapin, Wm. A.

Bartlett, Joshua Calkins, Jr., Samuel Waldo, Daniel Calkins and Thomas Parkinson. A resolution was soon adopted, refusing fellowship to Masons. In July, 1844, this measure was broadened, and it was voted to have no fellowship with members of any secret society. In 1879, after a controversy of over a year's standing, it was voted not to require further tests as to society fellowship. This action dissatisfied a portion of the members, who withdrew and formed what became known as "The Leicester Street Baptist Society of Perry, N. Y."

On September 6th, 1828, the church formed itself into a Missionary Society, auxiliary to the New York Baptist State Convention, and voted to contribute for the object of the convention what would amount to 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents for each of its members. The church has been a missionary body since that time, contributing according to its ability for the various objects of benevolence.

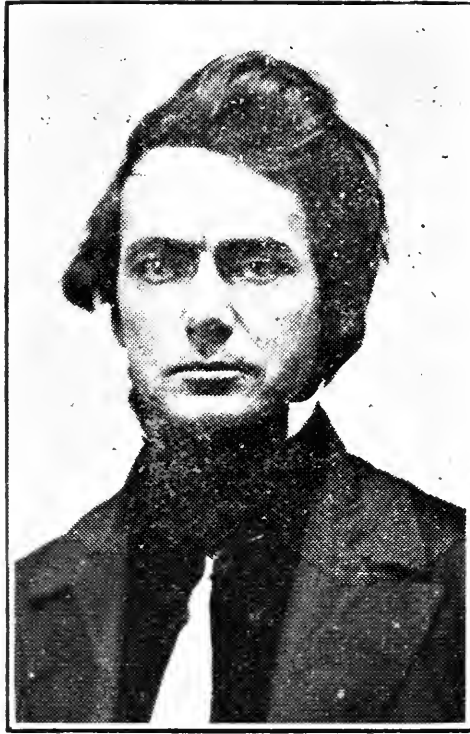
Rev. Mr. Barrell closed his labors as pastor of the church on the 16th of December, 1829. From that time until the August following, the church was without a pastor, but was supplied by Revs. Mr. Justin, Freeman and others. At the covenant meeting held in August, 1830, the church invited Rev. Daniel Eldridge to become its pastor. The invitation was accepted and he entered immediately upon his duties. The church had just completed its meeting house, the first Baptist meeting house in the town, erected at a cost of \$3,000. It was dedicated at the time Rev. Mr. Eldridge became pastor and added much to their comfort and convenience. In those days, after the completion of a house of worship, it was the custom to auction off the seats or pews to the highest bidders. The purchaser, or his heirs or assigns, was supposed to be privileged to retain ownership forever. The writer was permitted to examine one of the deeds given by the Baptist Society to Edmund C. Bills, dated Jan. 31st, 1831, at which time Mr. Bills purchased seat No. 36

for the sum of \$74. The deed was signed by Rufus H. Smith, Willard J. Chapin, E. Lacy, Samuel Phoenix and Samuel Waldo, who constituted the Board of Trustees of the Society at that time. In 1849, the church building was enlarged to double its original capacity, and in 1900 it was moved to the side and rear of the present church edifice, where it is still used as a Sunday School room and annex. When the Baptist Society was first organized, the services were held at the homes of the members. As the membership grew, the meeting place was changed to the village school house, which served them as a place of worship until the church erected in 1830 was completed.

During the term of Rev. Mr. Eldridge as pastor of the church a great revival was held and 112 people were added to the church by baptism. In January, 1833, he was succeeded as pastor by Rev. Absolom Miner, but owing to ill health, Mr. Miner served the church only about six months and resigned on the 24th of August following. He was succeeded by Rev. Wm. Arthur, father of the late President, Chester A. Arthur, who at that time was a boy of about four years of age. In the April following the arrival of Rev. Mr. Arthur, the church purchased a parsonage on North Main street at a cost of \$800. This house was afterward removed to what is now Elm street, to furnish the site for the residence of W. T. Olin, and now stands in the rear of Mr. Olin's home, having undergone some alterations after its removal to its new site. Having sold the property, the church society purchased a house and lot on Leicester street for its parsonage, the place owned by Mrs. J. M. Boughton. This was used until 1882.

Rev. Mr. Arthur resigned in September, 1837, and was followed by Rev. Elon Galusha. It was during the ministry of Mr. Galusha that the church took positive ground with reference to American slavery. Her influence had long before been

exerted in opposition to the great sin, through the early labors of Samuel Phoenix, the tanner, and afterward by Josiah Andrews and others; but as the iniquity steadily worked its way into every avenue of the Christian church, the members resolved that as a Church of Christ, they could not fellowship slaveholders or their apologists, a position from which the church never receded.



REV. WALTER R. BROOKS

Photo by Crocker

Afterwards President of Hamilton College

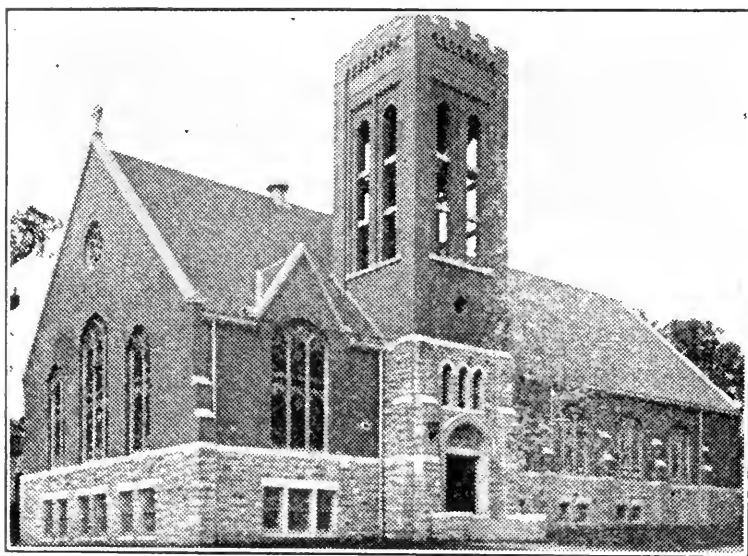
Other pastors who followed Rev. Mr. Galusha were: Daniel Eldridge, second term, 1841-3; J. W. Spoor, 1843-6; F. Glanville, 1846-9; Walter R. Brooks, 1849-57; Chauncey W. Wardener, 1857-9; Roswell Cheney, 1859-75; Charles Ayer, 1875-77; J. W. Harris, 1877-81; B. S. Terry, 1881-83; J. W. Duffy, 1884-

5; G. E. Farr, 1885-87; V. A. Sage, 1887-89; Joseph Sullivan, 1889-90; M. B. Comfort, 1890-93; J. H. Hollingsworth, 1893-99; H. A. Pease, 1899-1904; T. G. Eiswald, 1904-08; H. A. Waite, began in March, 1909.

In 1886 the present parsonage was constructed adjoining the church, at a cost of \$1900, and in 1887—during the pastorate of V. A. Sage—the pipe organ now in use was purchased at a cost of \$1250. The present church edifice was begun in the Summer of 1900, during the pastorate of Rev. H. A. Pease. The corner-stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies on Sept. 25th of that year, Rev. John Mason of Batavia delivering the address of the day. It was completed at a cost of \$15,000, and was dedicated on July 23d, 1901, Rev. C. A. Barbour, D. D., of Rochester, preaching the dedicatory sermon. In 1914 the congregation witnessed the burning of the last mortgage on the property and is now free from any indebtedness, being in a flourishing condition. The present membership is about 650; that of the Sunday School, 375. Mr. George Morse has served the Sunday School as its superintendent for a consecutive period of 20 years.

In 1913, expensive repairs were made upon the church edifice, hardwood floors being laid in the auditorium, the walls were re-decorated and the pipe organ was rebuilt. The expense of these improvements amounted to about \$2,000. The society is creating a fund for the re-building of the original structure in the rear, now used as Sunday School rooms.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



In 1912, the late Robert Stainton wrote an historical sketch of the Methodist Episcopal Church Society. Having been affiliated with the organization for a period of nearly 50 years, he was able to give an exceedingly interesting and accurate review of the past achievements of the society. Mr. Stainton's work is reproduced here, together with such other material as the writer has been able to secure.

The first Methodist inhabitant of Perry of whom we have any knowledge was Henry Wallace, who came in June, 1816. He went on foot to the quarterly meeting of the Caledonia Circuit held near Batavia, and while there requested that a preacher be sent to Perry. Complying with this request, Rev. Robert Minchell was sent and held the first preaching service the same year in Mr. Wallace's home, which stood on Gardeau street, just on the edge of the town of Castile.

A class of six members was formed: Henry Wallace, leader; Sabra Wallace (his wife,) Hannah Wallace (his daugh-

ter-in-law,) Miles Rhoades and wife, and a Mrs. Dow, who had located a mile or so farther south about the same time that Mr. Wallace came. Of this first class, Hannah Wallace died in 1831; Henry Wallace in 1840, aged 82; and Sabra Wallace in 1844, aged 80. Associated with this first preacher were Rev. Wm. Jones and Thomas McGee. In February of the next year, Rev. Wm. Wiles, a local preacher and ordained Deacon, came to Perry with his two sons and their families, a son-in-law and two daughters. This was a great addition to the infant society, as Mr. Wiles was a man of means. He owned the greater part of Main street and the most valuable water power on the outlet. Thomas Batchelden, an exhorter, settled near Perry about the same time, and in 1818 Thomas Grisewood came. Mr. Wallace, upon becoming deaf, was succeeded as class leader by Storey Wiles, and he by Thomas Grisewood in 1819.

After the arrival of Rev. Mr. Wiles, the preaching place was removed to the Wiles home, which stood just south of the Traver place, about opposite the present Record office. As the congregation grew, the village school house was used for the Sunday services. Under the labors of Rev. Benajah Williams, preacher in charge of the circuit, a great revival occurred in 1818-9 which was probably the first in the town. Among the converts were Wm. Dolbeer and wife, who proved loyal and true throughout a long life as residents of Perry.

The society had now increased to 36 members, and they proceeded to organize according to law, and laid plans for a church building of their own. This meeting was held on Nov. 25th, 1822, at the home of Wm. Wiles. The following named were elected as a Board of Trustees: Samuel Gilman, Thomas Grisewood, Wm. Dolbeer, Samuel Wiles, Thomas Batchelden and Rev. Wm. Wiles. The new church was erected and ready for dedication in the spring of 1824, and the presiding Elder—Rev. Goodwin Stoddard—preached the sermon. The church

stood on the northerly side of Short street, about half way between Lake and Covington streets, and cost \$800. It was the first M. E. Church within the present county. In 1829, the Genesee Conference held its sessions in this church, and Bishop Roberts presided. At this session, action was taken which resulted in the founding of the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary at Lima. In 1831, Perry was made a station. A larger edifice was needed and was erected in 1832. The old building was sold, removed and used for several years by the Universalist Society. It was subsequently converted into a boarding house for the accommodation of students of the old Perry Academy. The new church was much larger, with ample galleries, and was built on the Lake street property now owned by T. B. Masten. The church faced east, on a road which at that period connected Lake and Covington streets. It cost \$4,000, and was dedicated by Samuel Luckey, D. D. The Genesee Conference held its annual session in this church in 1837, Bishop Hedding presiding. The edifice was destroyed by fire in 1838 with a total loss, as it was uninsured. The society then purchased the remainder of the lot through to Covington street and built a session house in which they worshiped until the new church was completed in 1840. This was erected on the Lake street end of the lot and was continuously occupied until the completion of the present beautiful brick and stone church edifice on the corner of Covington and Short streets.

The pastor in charge during the building of the third edifice was Rev. J. T. Arnold, noted for that line of work. It was dedicated by Rev. Schuyler Seager, D. D., Principal of Genesee Wesleyan Seminary. The church cost \$3,000, and the session room \$400 additional. In the great fire of 1856, when Main street, south of Lake street, on the west side, was all destroyed the steeple caught fire and was completely wrecked, the church itself being saved only by the most heroic efforts of citizens.

The late Seymour Sanford and Rev. T. B. Catton were the directing minds who saved the church.

A still more fiery trial awaited the church in the Fall of the same year, when the Genesee Conference held its annual session, lasting 17 days. A time of trouble and bitter dissension, the effects of which are not yet entirely obliterated and forgotten, was the outcome. At this session, Rev. B. T. Roberts and Joseph McCreary were tried and expelled from the Conference and the M. E. Church. Bishops Janes and Baker were both present at this Conference and presided, although Bishop Janes was president by assignment. The Perry church had its full share of the strife and bitterness of separation and lost some of its most earnest and trusted members, who later formed the Free Methodist Church Society of Perry.

The church building was occupied from 1840 to 1883, during which period minor improvements were made. In the latter year the society became dissatisfied with the edifice and decided upon a thorough change and remodeling to conform more adequately to modern usages. After considerable discussion it was decided to turn the building half way around, facing Lake street, elevate it and put a basement beneath, with everything new inside, modern pews and cushions, stained glass windows, carpets, furnace, etc. The work was begun in the Summer of 1883 and completed in the Spring of 1884. The church was re-dedicated on March 11th, 1884, by Chancellor C. N. Sims of Syracuse University. A new pipe organ was installed in 1893 at a cost of \$800.

At the beginning of the twentieth century a spirit of restlessness and dissatisfaction manifested itself among the membership, who felt that the church should keep pace with the onward march of progress, and after two or three years of consideration and agitation, under the pastorate of Rev. F. M.

Cole, the present church building was started in the Summer of 1906 and completed in the Fall of 1907 at a total cost of \$39,540.95. It was dedicated on Sept. 1st, 1907, Rev. John Krantz, D. D., preaching the sermon and conducting the appeal for financial aid to meet the debt. A splendid pipe organ was installed in 1909 at an expense of \$2,500. This sum was outside and independent of the church building fund, and was secured through the quiet and tactful methods of the pastor, Rev. J. Edward Martin.

The society has owned two parsonages. The first was a house bought in 1836, which stood on the corner of Leicester and Hawthorne streets. It was destroyed by fire on April 19th, 1877, during the pastorate of Rev. A. Sutherland. Quite an agitation followed as to where the new parsonage should be located, and through the generosity of the late Martin P. Andrews and wife, who pledged \$700 each conditional upon its erection on the triangle at Lake, Leicester and Center streets, it was built there in 1877.

Regarding the pastors who have had charge of the church the writer has found it extremely difficult to locate them in chronological order, but the list is fairly authentic up to 1850. Since that date they are accurately recorded. While Perry was a circuit beginning in 1816, the organization under Robert Minchell held the first preaching service, as before stated. Then came Wm. Jones, Thomas McGee, Benajah Williams, James Bronson, Cyrus Storey, John Cosart, Chester V. Adgate, Reeder Smith and Wilbur Hoag. The others, previous to its being made a station in 1831, are not definitely known. Since becoming a station, the following named had charge: John B. Alverson, Seth Matteson, F. G. Hibbard, D. D.; J. T. Arnold, 1839-41; John Parker, 1841-3; I. H. Kellogg, 1843-5; Philo Woodworth, 1845-7; DeForest Parsons, 1847-9; Charles D. Burlingam, 1849-51; Allen P. Ripley, 1851-53; J. B. Wentworth, 1853-4; Milo

Scott, 1854-55; H. Ryan Smith, 1855-57; W. S. Tuttle, 1857-59; J. B. Wentworth, 1859-61; Sanford Hunt, 1861-63; E. A. Rice, 1863-65; J. H. Bayliss, 1865-66; James E. Bills, 1866-7; E. L. Newman, 1867-70; L. A. Stevens, 1870-73; J. H. Rogers, 1873-6; Andrew Sutherland, 1876-9; John W. Sanborn, 1879-82; Henry Vosburg, 1882-4; Henry Clay Woods, 1884-87; Carlos G. Lowell, 1887-93; John T. Canfield, 1893-95; Benjamin Copeland, 1895-99; Sylvester W. Lloyd, 1899-1901; Frank M. Cole, 1901-7; J. Edward Martin, 1907-12; Wm. W. Robinson, 1912.

From an early period a Sabbath School has been maintained. Among the first superintendents were Rev. John Stain-



DAVID PAGE STOWELL

Born, June 15, 1818, at Lebanon, N. Y.

Died December 28, 1901

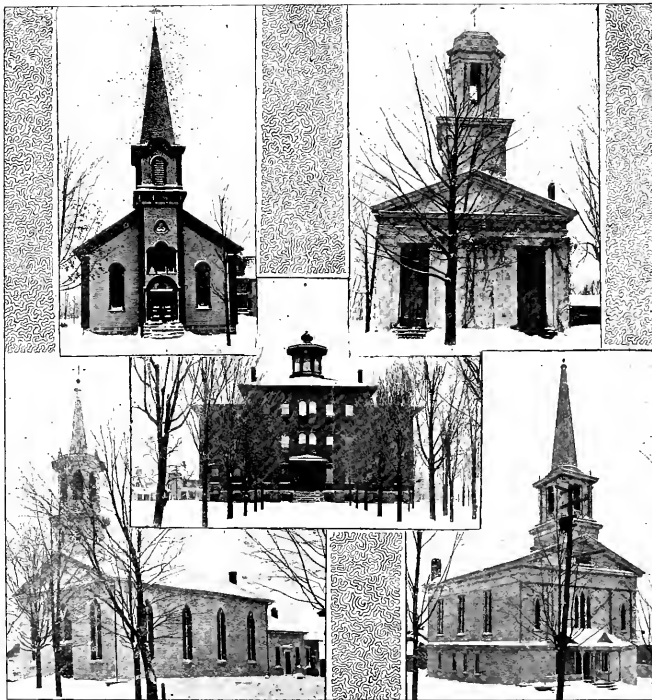
ton, Gilbert Mitchell, Prof. M. R. Atkins, A. B. Cooley and David P. Stowell.

During the nine years from 1906-15 the society raised the remarkably large sum of \$75,719.51. Of this amount, \$45,023.51 represented expenditures for building, interest, pipe organ, etc., and the balance for current expenses and benevolences. The final payment on the church property was made on Jan. 15th, 1915, at which time the mortgages were burned at a praise service, at which Revs. F. M. Cole and J. E. Martin were present to rejoice with the pastor and people.

The present membership of the church society is about 450.

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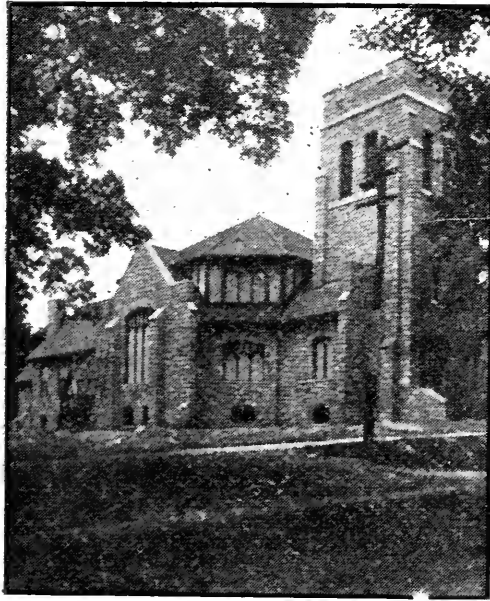
The present membership of the church society is about 450.



Upper left, old Catholic Church; upper right, old Presbyterian Church; center, old Perry Union School; lower left, old Baptist Church; lower right, old Methodist Episcopal Church. All are now replaced by new buildings.

—From pictures taken in 1894

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



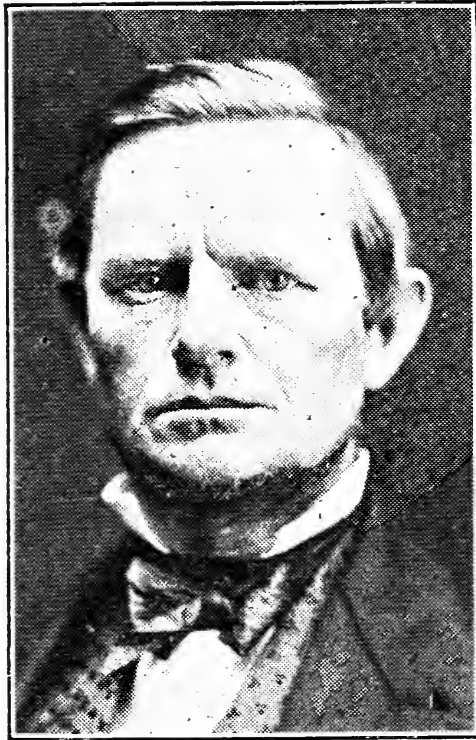
The early history of the Congregational Church of Perry Center is also the early history of the Presbyterian Society of Perry, as the two organizations were affiliated from the time of the establishment of the first named up to the year 1834, with the exception of the period from 1822 to 1831.

On July 22d, 1822, five of the members of the Congregational Church withdrew and established a Presbyterian Society in the village. Rev. Samuel T. Mills of Moscow and Rev. Norris Bull of Geneseo were present at the organization. This first society did not make much progress, never numbered more than 27, and while they had occasional preaching, they did not have a settled pastor. On August 30th, 1831, the little society disbanded and its members returned to the mother church shortly after the erection of the Congregational house of worship.

Rev. Samuel Gridley, pastor of the Perry Center church, was active in the second church organization, which consisted of 23 members, and which was organized on Sept. 13th, 1834, with the following named as trustees: Merrick Hough, Dr. Otis Higgins, James R. Webster, Harvey Homan, Edmund Birdsall, and Orris Gardner. The congregation used the little building on Covington street, now occupied as a second-hand store, as a place of worship. A reorganization took place at a meeting held on the 14th of July, 1835, when the present Presbyterian Society was constituted by the Presbytery of Genesee. Messrs. Orris Gardner, Ebenezer Higgins and Joseph E. Lambright were elected Ruling Elders, and Dr. Otis Higgins and Edmund Birdsall were chosen Deacons.

Rev. Samuel Gridley supplied the congregation with preaching during the first two years. In 1837 he was succeeded by Rev. Selden Haynes, who served as supply for 18 months, during which time it was decided to erect a new house of worship. On Jan 1st, 1839, the building was completed and dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. Revs. Erastus Gillett of Batavia, Joseph Ladd and W. Stratton assisting Rev. Mr. Haynes in the dedicatory services. The brick used in the construction of the building was manufactured at West Perry. Temporary repairs were made on the edifice from time to time. In 1852 a chapel was added at a cost of \$1,300. During the same year, Mr. E. P. Clark, a local hardware dealer, presented the society with the bell which is now in use. In 1856 the pulpit was remodeled and re-decorated through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Durkee. Repairs were made in 1860 at an expenditure of about \$700. In 1875, extensive improvements were made through a building committee composed of German B. Olin, Henry N. Page, R. T. Tuttle and Mrs. C. A. Cleveland. The auditorium was enlarged by removing the gallery in front and enclosing the porch. The windows were narrowed and re-

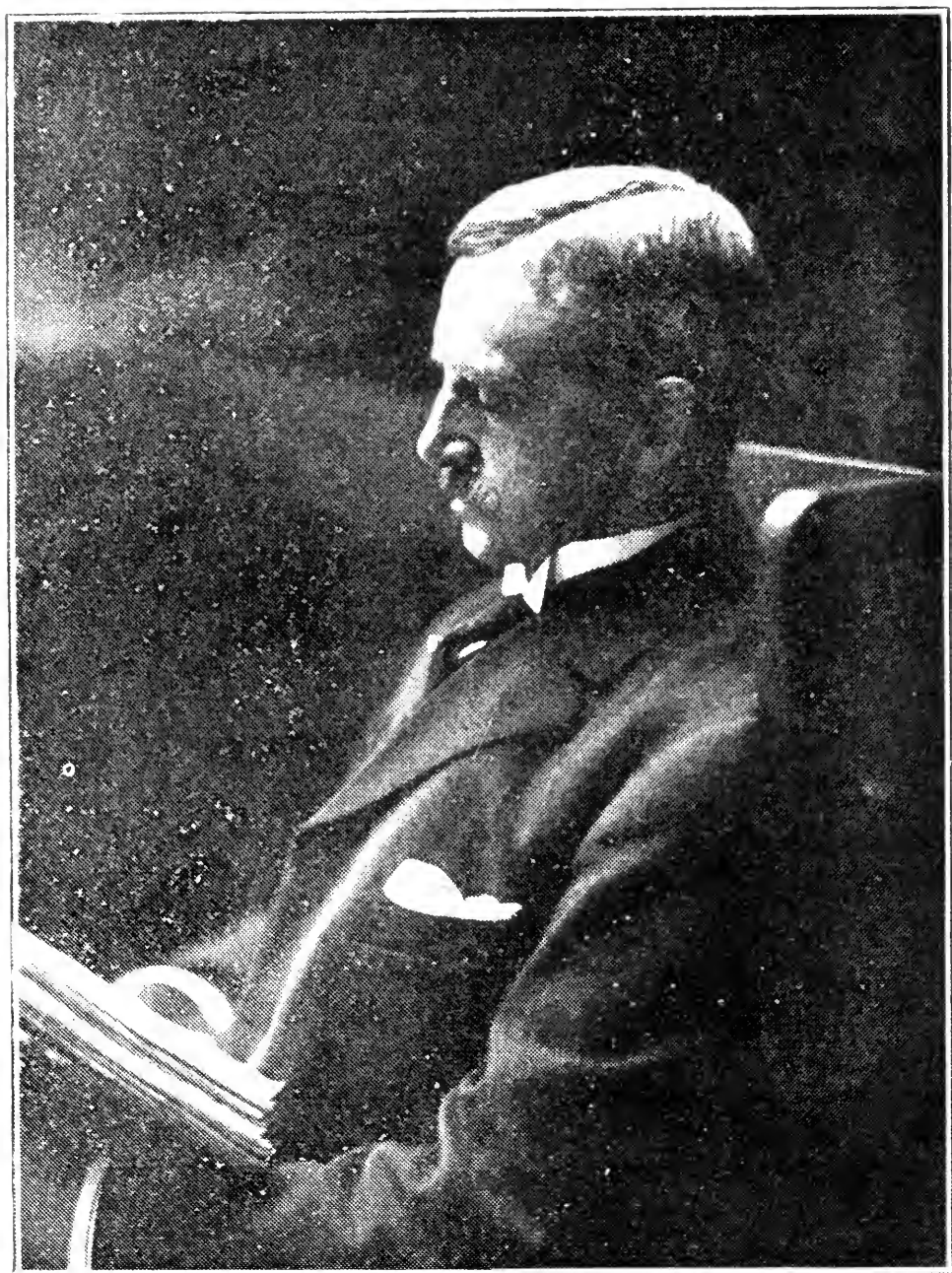
placed with stained glass; the walls were frescoed, the audience room was re-seated, and the present pipe organ was purchased at that time. The expense incurred by these improvements amounted to about \$6,700. The church was re-dedicated on Dec. 28th, 1875, Rev. Joseph R. Page, a former pastor of the society, preaching a sermon on "The Influences of the Sanctuary."



REV. JOSEPH R. PAGE

Photograph by Crocker.

Rev. Joseph R. Page, D. D., began his ministry with the church in February 1840, and continued until October, 1841, when he returned to Auburn Theological Seminary to complete his studies. Dr. Page came back to Perry and was installed as pastor on Oct. 4th, 1843, and continued until December, 1856, when he became pastor of the Congregational Church at Strat-



REV. CASSIUS H. DIBBLE

ford, Conn. Three years later he was recalled to this church and continued to preach here until the close of 1867. During the absences of Dr. Page, already referred to, Rev. J. W. Ray, Rev. Mr. Tileston and Rev. Mr. Pattengill supplied the church. In 1868, Dr. Page was succeeded by Rev. H. M. Hazeltine, who served as stated supply for a period of about two years. On Oct. 27th, 1870, Rev. H. B. Gardner became pastor and continued his ministry for two years. Rev. Cassius H. Dibble began his labors in this church in December, 1872, as stated supply, and was installed on Sept. 26th, 1876, as its regular pastor. During the continuous period from 1872 to 1902, a span of 30 years, he was the faithful spiritual guide and beloved pastor of the congregation, being prominently identified with every movement for civic betterment and maintaining cordial and harmonious relations with the clergy and people of other denominations. During his term as pastor there were nearly 500 accessions to the church membership, of whom about 150 are still identified with the society. Upon Mr. Dibble's retirement from active ministry the congregation voted to him a life lease of the old manse which had been his home for many years, and erected a new manse at a cost of about \$5,000 for the use of succeeding pastors.

Rev. Joseph Addison Jones, who was a student at Auburn Theological Seminary, became pastor in 1903, leaving in November, 1905, to become pastor of the Madison Avenue Reformed Church in Albany, which he continues to ably serve at the present time. The present pastor, Rev. Wm. V. TeWinkel, came to Perry on March 1st, 1906, and has been the faithful pastor of the church since that time.

The project of erecting a new house of worship was presented to the congregation by the pastor at the request of the church officials, in a sermon delivered on Sept. 13th, 1908, a date that marked the 74th anniversary of the organization of

“The Brick Church Society.” Ten days later a congregational meeting was held to consider the matter, and committees were appointed to canvass the members. At another meeting held in February, 1909, the report showed such a gratifying response that it was decided to proceed with the erection of a new church without unnecessary delay. In due time the preparations for building were completed and the last services held in the old edifice occurred on July 18th, 1909. The corner stone of the new building was laid on Sunday, Nov. 14th, of that year. For two years the congregation worshiped pleasantly and harmoniously with the First Baptist Society until Sept. 3d, 1911, when the new church was ready for occupancy. The dedication, which had been deferred until all indebtedness upon the building had been provided for, took place on Sunday, Oct. 11th, 1914. The dedication sermon was delivered by Rev. C. H. Dibble, Pastor Emeritus, from the text “Receivers of the Fullness of Christ.” Rev. W. V. TeWinkel, the pastor, gave the prayer of consecration. The cost of the building was about \$43,000.

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH



Many of the early settlers of Perry, including the families of Josiah Williams, Amos Otis, Dan Dickerson and the Atwoods, were followers of the Universalist faith, and services were frequently held at the homes of these pioneers, although it appears that no effort was then made to establish a society. As the town grew, many of the new comers were found to be of the Universalist denomination, and at a meeting called on Oct. 8th, 1831, a constitution and profession of faith were adopted, to which the following named subscribed as constituent members: Dan Dickerson, Titus Howe, Robert Mattison, Hiram Austin, Arvin Olin, Talmon T. Carver, Moses Wooley, Eliakim Botsford, Noah Bacon, Josiah Williams, J. H. Bolton, Amos Otis, John Griffith, Isaiah T. Gore, Jonas Wood, William Tripp, Homer Bingham, Nathan Chichester, Oliver Goodspeed, Samuel Marsh, Joseph Wilson, James Calkins, Jacob Ashdin, Rodney Atwood, Stephen B. Tabor, Mary Collins, Nancy Wood, Ann

Dickerson, Betsey Ayers, Betsey Olin, Dolly Botsford, Densa Burnham, Margaret Bacon, Lovina Otis, Deborah Waterman, Mary Patchin, Sally Tripp, Polly Bingham, Laura Goodspeed, Harriet Collins, and Lucy Ann Collins.

J. H. Bolton, Josiah Williams and Dan Dickerson were elected trustees at this meeting. The regular church organization was effected on the 18th of June, 1843.

Up to the year 1833, the society had no regular place in which to hold their meetings, services being held at the homes of the parishioners. During that year, however, it was voted to purchase the old Methodist Church, and the trustees were accordingly instructed. This was used as a house of worship until the erection of the present building. It was then sold and converted into a dwelling house and was subsequently destroyed by fire. The present church edifice was completed in the Summer of 1852 at a cost of approximately \$4,000 and was dedicated on Feb. 9th, of the following year, Rev. A. Skinner of Utica preaching the dedicatory sermon. Extensive repairs were made on the building in 1886, and it was rededicated on April 7th of that year, Rev. W. E. Gibbs delivering the address of the day. The pipe organ was installed a number of years ago at a cost of \$800.

The church records do not give the names of the pastors previous to the church organization. The following named are known, however, to have preached before that time: Sampson Skeelee, W. T. Reese, Alfred Peck, ———Moreton, John Flagler, Benjamin Luther, L. L. Saddler, T. P. Abell, Seth Barnes, Jacob Chase, Orrin Roberts, Alanson Kelsey, B. G. Bennett. The pastors since the organization was effected were: Daniel Ackley, Stephen Miles, J. S. Brown, Eben Francis, A. B. Grosh, D. C. Tomlinson; Stephen Crane, 1866-73; W. B. Randolph, 1873-77; George Adams, 1877-78; W. Sisson, 1878-80; John Clarence

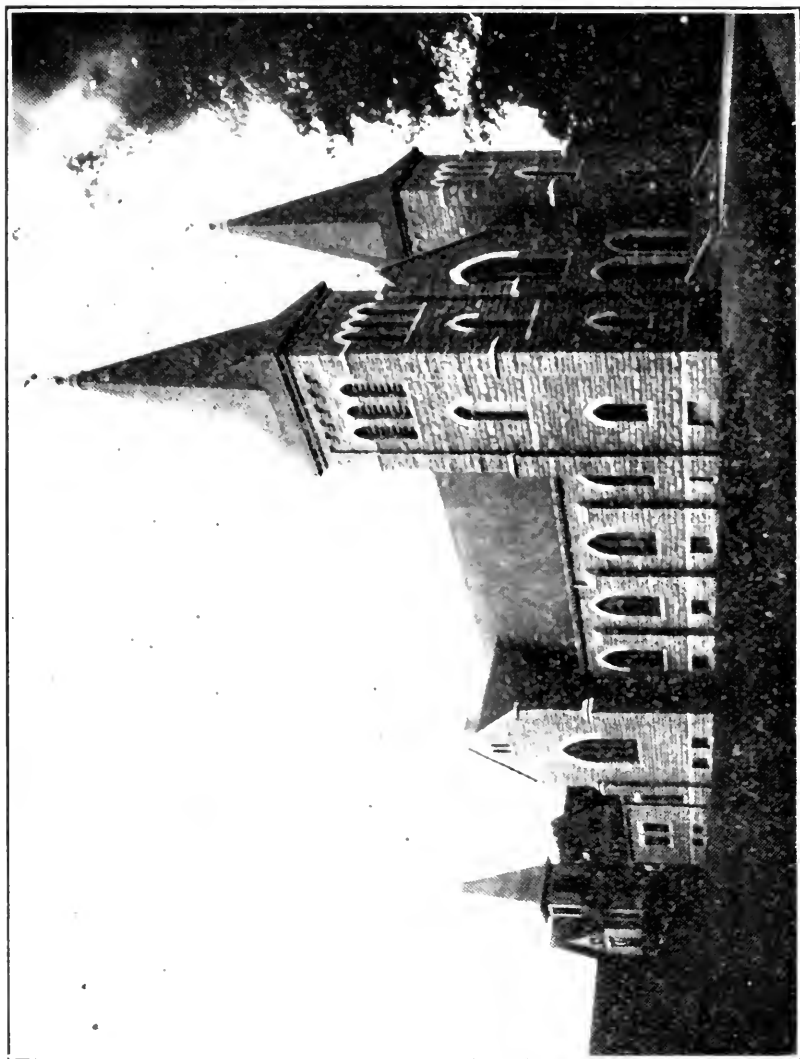
Lee, 1880-83; John F. Gates, 1883-86; J. E. June, 1886-89; S. A. Whitcomb, 1889-90; J. F. Gates, 1890-91; H. C. Munson, 1891-92; Asa Countryman, 1892-94; Charles Palmatier, 1894-1903; John Evans, 1903-'06; Clara E. Morgan came April 1st, 1906.

A lot on Center street was given to the society by the late Geo. Tomlinson, and in 1888 the present parsonage was built, Rev. J. E. June being the first to occupy it.

During the '70's, and in some of the years before and after, the annual harvest festival of the Universalist society was the social event of the season and always was looked for with pleasurable anticipation. A bountiful supper was an important feature, together with a dramatic performance, followed by games and dancing, making an evening of particular pleasure for the young folks. In those days, dancing was frowned upon if not forbidden by a number of church organizations, and the occasion was one of the few opportunities afforded to enjoy the pastime under proper surroundings.

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ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



The Rev. Thomas McEvoy was the first priest to visit the few Catholics living in Perry. He came in the year 1848 to the home of Dennis Kennedy on Watrous street, and there celebrated mass for the first time in the history of the town. Afterwards, mass was celebrated at irregular intervals by Fathers

Lawton, Ryan and McEvoy in the homes of James McKrink, John Whalen, James O'Connor and Mr. Kennedy. Other early Catholic families were those of Bernard Smith, James Malone and Thomas Farrell.

About the year 1859, a few Catholics of the town purchased a building on Covington street, which had been used as a private school and for the session room of the Presbyterian society, from E. P. Clark for \$300. This served them as a meeting place until 1873, when it was abandoned for the building erected in that year and dedicated on June 17th, under the direction of Rev. John Fitzpatrick. The building cost approximately \$5,000.

The society was conducted as a Mission until 1879, and was attended by Fathers McConnell, Purcell, McGuinness, Gregg, Cook, FitzPatrick and O'Duyer. In March, 1879, Perry and Silver Springs (then called East Gainesville) were formed into an independent parish with the Rev. Peter Berkery as resident pastor. There was no parochial residence for him, and he boarded with members of the congregation until the rectory was built. Father Berkery was succeeded in April, 1882, by Father Herrick, who remained until January, 1884, when he was succeeded by Rev. Francis Sullivan, who built the present attractive rectory and for 13 years labored successfully among the people. Upon his promotion to Albion, N. Y., Rev. Wm. T. Wilber was appointed to take charge, and was pastor from 1897 to 1904. On June 4th, 1904, the Rt. Rev. Chas. H. Colton, Bishop of Buffalo, appointed Rev. Thomas J. Caraher pastor at Perry and instructed him to build a needed new church. Some things had to be done before the work could be begun, viz: The renovation of the old property, and the removal of the old church with vestry and barn to other locations to make room on the Leicester street site for the new edifice. The old church was removed to a site north of the rectory and

refitted for use as an amusement and dining hall.

During the Fall of the year 1905, after the Bishop had personally inspected the grounds and given instructions as to the requirements, the excavation work was begun for the new church, and during the month of October the foundation was built, but on account of the unfavorable weather which set in, work was discontinued for the winter. It was resumed in the following spring, and on Oct. 14th, 1906, the corner-stone was laid by Bishop Colton, assisted by Rev. Thomas Walsh and many priests of the Diocese. Father McKenna, O. P., of New York City, preached the sermon on that occasion. The building was completed in November, 1908, and has been occupied since Dec. 6th of that year.

On Sunday, Aug. 1st, 1909, it was dedicated by Bishop Colton, assisted by Rev. Dean Vandepoel of LeRoy, Rev. Francis Sullivan of Albion, Rev. J. McGrath, Rev. Charles Duffy, D. D., Rev. M. J. Kean, and Rev. Thomas Walsh, D. D., D. C. L. of Buffalo. Rev. John H. O'Rourke, S. J., of New York City, delivered the sermon of the day. The church is a beautiful marble edifice and cost approximately \$50,000, including furnishings. It commands the admiration of all who see it and their wonderment how it could have been constructed for the sum expended. It is a lasting and substantial memorial of the care, foresight and executive ability of Father Caraher, who gave his personal attention to every detail and secured complete return for every dollar expended.

HOLY APOSTLES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Episcopal services were held in Perry in Prof. Allen's private school rooms as early as 1845. At this time the Rt. Rev. Bishop DeLancey acted as supply. About the year 1875, the small body of Episcopalians living in Perry held services in the little chapel that stood upon a site on Main street, now the entrance to Borden avenue. Revs. Sweetland and Battin were the only regular pastors of whom the writer has any information.

Services were finally abandoned in this little church, and the few adherents of the faith affiliated with other religious bodies of the town. The avails of the sale of the church property formed a nucleus for a larger fund, and as the town rapidly increased in population, it was found that a considerable number of the new comers were Episcopalians, who were desirous of seeing a church of that denomination in the place. This fact gave courage to the old members and their interest was renewed. About the year 1897, weekly meetings were held by the Episcopalians in the Universalist Church, and earnest efforts were made to realize their ambition to have a church of their own. The fund for the purpose grew, and in 1899 the present edifice was constructed at a cost of \$3500, the corner stone being laid by Bishop Walker of the Diocese of Western New York.

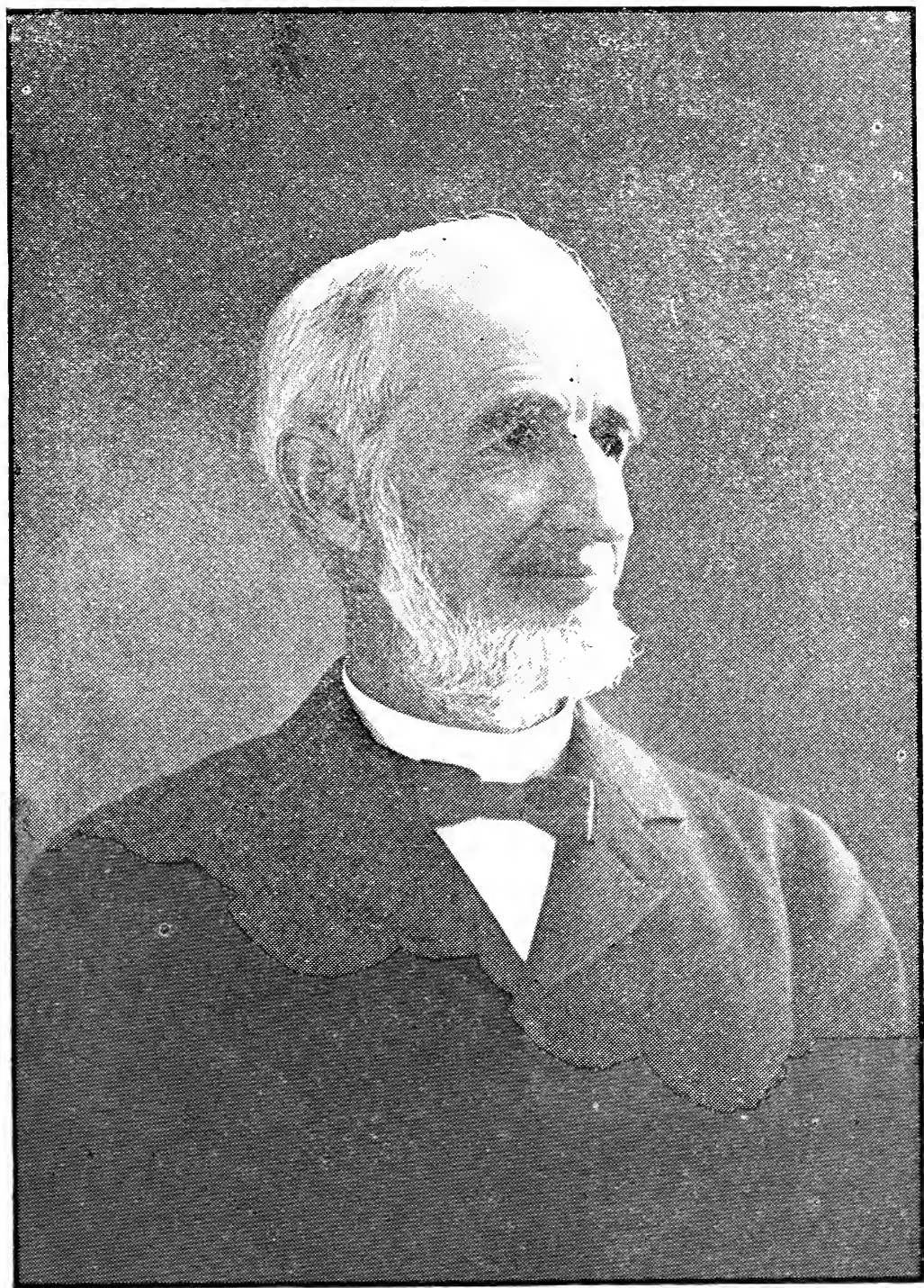
During the period since the building of the church there have been seven rectors appointed, viz: W. A. Atkinson, who was the first, labored here for two and one-half years, the others in order being as follows: Revs. Stoddard, Willey, Harvey, Murch, and the present rector, Percy Isherwood. Mr. F. E. Eustace supplied vacancies as lay reader. The present membership comprises about 60 families.

FREE METHODIST CHURCH

The first meetings of this society were held in Smith's Hall, located on the corner of Main and Lake streets, in the third story of the brick block erected by Rufus H. Smith. The organization as a church society was established at a meeting held on Nov. 5th, 1860, with the following named persons as members in full connection: John Grisewood, Hannah Grisewood, Jonathan Handley, Mary Handley, James R. Johnson, Rhoda M. Johnson, Mark Johnson, Wm. Rudd, Sarah Rudd, Thomas B. Catton, Sarah H. Catton, James Purdy, Sarah Purdy, Wright Mason, Mary Clark Sanford, Hannah Sanford, Lydia Grisewood, Ann Smith, Elizabeth Hare. The following Summer they erected a church building on a lot presented to them by Anson D. Smith, on the corner of Main and Gardeau streets. This church was dedicated on July 20th, 1861, by Revs. Asa Abell and Loren Stiles. The parsonage was built on Gardeau street, adjoining the church. In the Fall of 1862, a class of 25 from Burke Hill united with the Free Methodists and the organization was then known as "The Perry and Burke Hill Circuit." A Sunday School was organized with Thomas B. Catton as its first superintendent. Only one of the charter members is now living—Mr. Wm. Rudd, who is still active in the work of the church.

In May, 1915, the society purchased of E. J. Soper, his new residence property and vacant lot on Church street. The residence will be used as a parsonage, and it is the intention of the society to erect a new church building in the near future.

The pastors who have served the church are: A. A. Phelps, Wm. Manning, Asa Abell, G. W. Humphrey, George Slack, C. Hudson, S. H. Lowe, J. W. Reddy, Henry Hornsby, T. J. Ewell, M. C. Burritt, George W. Marcellus, G. W. Coleman, C. B. Essex, J. A. Green, D. S. Warner, W. C. Chamberlain, C. W. Bacon,



THOMAS B. CATTON

D. G. Mark, J. Robinson, J. H. Wheeler, J. H. Harmon, W. T. Wees, L. Barmore, R. Carne, L. A. Southworth, M. A. Parker, H. J. Wood.

LEICESTER STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

During the Summer of 1879, owing to a controversy of over a year's duration, concerning secret societies, a portion of the congregation of the First Baptist Church withdrew from that organization and formed what later became known as "The Leicester Street Baptist Society of Perry." For a period of about three years they held their regular church services in the Academy building. Rev. Jesse Ellicott preached to the congregation until his death in March, 1880, when Rev. J. D. Tucker was engaged as pastor.

A council of the Genesee Baptist Association was called and convened at Perry on Feb. 15th, 1881, at which time arguments were heard for and against the recognition of the organization as an independent church. Not being able to agree upon the subject, an adjournment was taken until Nov. 15th, at which time the organization succeeded in obtaining the desired recognition.

The society purchased a lot on Leicester street and the erection of a church edifice was begun in the Summer of 1881. On Jan. 26, 1882,, it was formally dedicated by Rev. H. D. Ewell. The cost of the building was \$4,300.

Regular services were held in this church until February, 1909, when the organization disbanded and the members reunited with the mother church, under the name of the "Baptist Church of Perry."

Other pastors of the church were: Revs. Brown, D. C. Herrell, and James Blanden.

About the year 1909, the church property was sold to the late W. P. Andrus, who converted the building into an apartment house.

ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH

The growth of Perry's largest knitting industry from a working force of 100 or more to over one thousand created a labor problem that induced many Polish people to come here and seek employment in the mills. When the number reached about 300, a Catholic priest of their own nationality was secured in the person of Rev. Joseph Rudzinski, and the parish of "St. Stanislaus Kosta" was instituted on Nov. 14, 1910, by Bishop Colton. At that time the congregation numbered over 300, representing over 40 families. The congregation now numbers nearly one thousand and the society has a church building, a rectory and other property, including a cemetery, totaling in value about \$10,000.

Father Rudzinski is a loyal citizen of his adopted country and has done much for the uplift of his people, encouraging them in learning American customs and inspiring in them a devotion to American ideals.

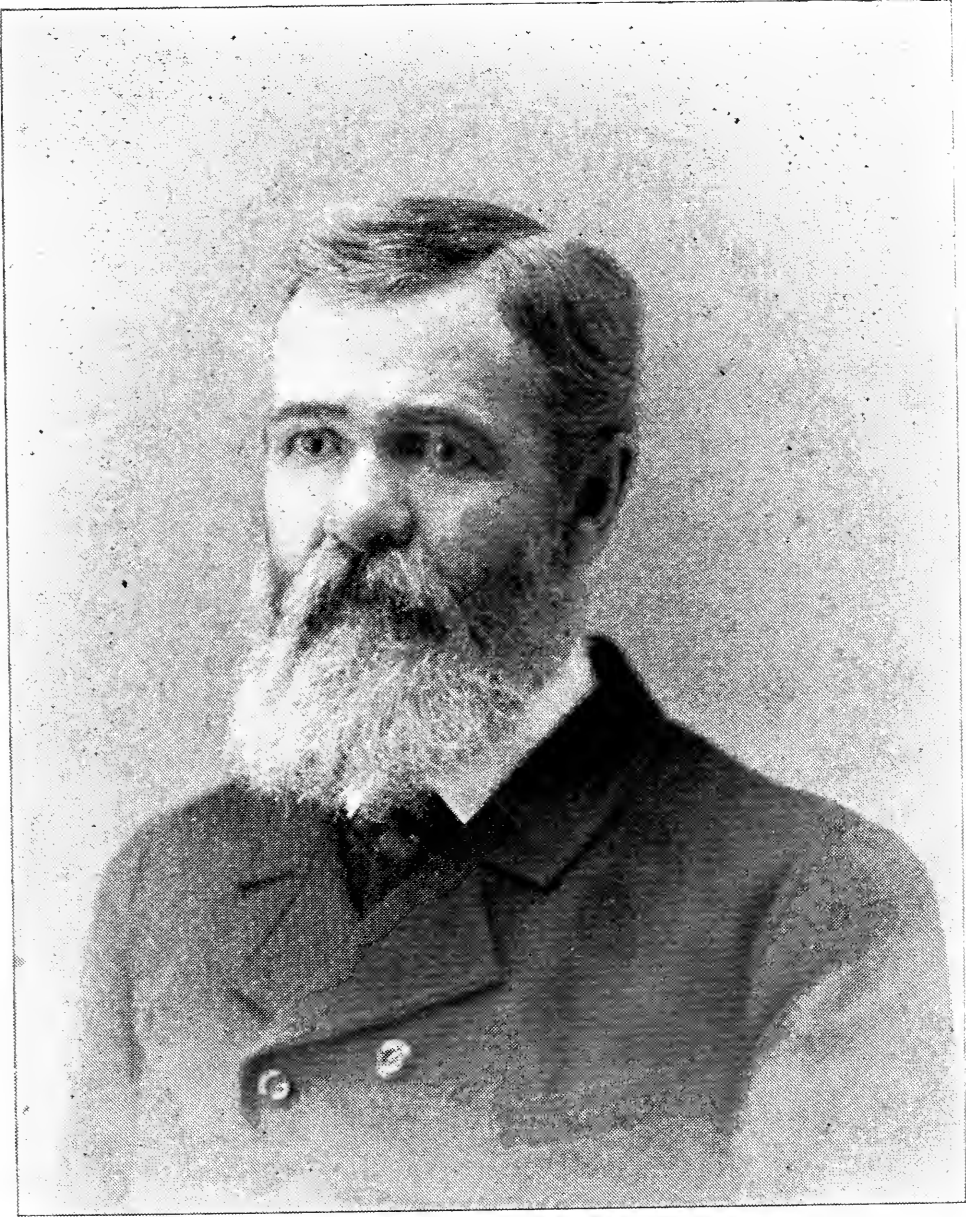
CHAPTER X

Excitement Over Discoveries of Gold in California—Perry Men Were Among Those Who Were Lured by the Fortunes Quickly Made.

In the late '40's, gold discoveries in California created great excitement and drew many people to the Pacific Coast in search of their fortune. A large number of men went alone while many others took their families across the country in "prairie schooners" and braved the perils that beset them nearly all of the way west of the Missouri River.

From Ridpath's history of the United States we quote: "A few days after the signing of the treaty of peace with Mexico, an event occurred in California which spread excitement through the civilized world. A laborer, employed by Captain Sutter, to cut a mill race on the American fork of the Sacramento River, discovered some pieces of gold in the sand in which he was digging. With further search, other particles were found. The news spread as if borne on the wind. From all quarters, adventurers came flocking. Other explorations led to further revelations of the precious metal. For a while there seemed to be no end to the discoveries. Straggling gold hunters sometimes picked up in a few hours the value of \$500. The intelligence went flying through the states to the Atlantic, and then the ends of the world. Men thousands of miles away were crazed with excitement. Workshops were shut up, business houses abandoned, fertile farms left tenantless, offices deserted. Though the overland routes to California were scarcely yet discovered, thousands of our eager adventurers started on the long, long journey."

The "gold fever" manifested itself in Perry and infected Riley Senter, Charles H. Erickson, Samuel P. Pierce and Mark A. Pierce, who left here on May 11th, 1849, and started for California by the "overland route." At Council Bluffs, Ia., they



MARK A. PIERCE

met others who were bound for the "Golden State," and at that place the "wagon train" was formed. The long journey across the plains was begun about June 1st, 1849, and after several unexpected delays, the party reached Salt Lake City in November. It was deemed inadvisable to take the shortest route from Salt Lake to California on account of the heavy snows in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, hence they left Salt Lake City in December, taking a trail running a southerly course.

At Laramie, Wyoming, before reaching Salt Lake City, the party was obliged to stop for a time and make repairs to their wagons and outfit. In a letter written from Laramie on Aug. 25th, 1849, Riley Senter told of some of their experiences. It was published in the *Perry Democrat*, from which we make the following excerpts:

"The land about here is far from being fit to cultivate. There is an immense region of country between the States and the Rocky Mountains that is fit only for buffalo and other wild animals to range upon. From where we crossed the Missouri it continues to grow more barren as we journey westward. The country is almost entirely destitute of timber. There is generally some along the river and creek banks, just a few scattering trees. Great quantities of material have been thrown out here. On all of the abandoned camping places are to be found boxes, barrels, trunks, a great quantity of iron in all shapes—wagon tires, horse shoes, blacksmith tools, etc. Wagons have been burned with their provisions by some, because they could not get any offers for the property. The North American Fur Company have a station here to trade with the Indians, and I can readily see how large profits are made. These traders pay a mere trifle for buffalo robes. A cup of coffee and one of flour is about the usual price. I was told that one cup of molasses is sufficient to purchase a buffalo robe. Moccasins are bought for a few cents. The buffalo is the only dependence of the Indians; for hats they cut the hair from the hides and sew it. The Indians are looking with a great deal of anxiety upon the emigration of the whites through their territory, fearing that all

of the buffalo will be killed and that they will have to starve. Officials at the forts endeavor to pacify the Indians by telling them that the United States will supply them with food when the proper time arrives. Indians are experts in shooting the buffalo, and I have frequently been told that they can drive an arrow through an animal. I really believe it from the appearance of their arrows, which are pointed with a sharp iron, shaped something like the old flint arrow heads found in Wyoming County. From the time we started until within ten miles of Laramie we did not see an Indian, and then discovered about 25 lodges on the opposite side of the river. Although having frequently been told to be very cautious about going into danger, some half a dozen of us started immediately for their camp. Before getting over the river we saw them go for their horses and rush across between us and the wagon train, which was moving on. We hardly knew what to make of their movement, but thinking it best to start directly for them, we did so and found that their great anxiety was to get to our train for the purpose of trading and getting presents. They had plenty of ponies, some buffalo robes and moccasins, and were anxious to trade their ponies for our horses. Anything that an Indian takes a fancy to will buy one of their best ponies. An old military coat will buy a pony at any time, such as the traders ask from \$75 to \$100 for. These Indians are the Sioux. They have suffered terribly from the cholera, which began its ravages among them last spring, but now has nearly ceased. They do not bury their dead, but hang the bodies up, either in trees or upon long poles, believing that if buried the dead one could not see. In following one creek, some of us found several bodies in trees; one was that of a child carefully placed on a network of sticks woven together. By its side lay a pretty red blanket folded up along with several deer and elk skins of the softest kind, together with several small trinkets. * * * We intend to start tomorrow by the river route. There is no doubt that gold is there or near there in abundance; so we are told by the Mormons on the road, and if there is as much as is said to be we shall go in for a share. I hope to send some of the dust home by next spring. I like the company I am with; they are a set of men who know how and are ready to work; some mechanics, others farmers when at home. My health is excellent and I have never regretted starting from Perry."

Charles Erickson died on the trip, particulars of his death being written to the home folks by Mark Pierce in a letter from which we make the following excerpts:

“Our course after we left Salt Lake City lay through a dreary and desolate region inhabited only by Indians who subsist mostly by robbery. We followed the route marked on the map as ‘Fremont’s trail of 1844.’ Before we crossed the dividing ridge of the Great Basin we encountered severe weather; the mercury registered 22 degrees below zero and the snow was nearly two feet in depth. Although we were much exposed to the inclement weather, we endured it better than one would expect. After crossing the dividing ridge and traveling down the Santa Clara River a day or two, we emerged into spring-like climate which continued until we reached our destination. We had occasion to stop during the first few days of January on a small stream called ‘Muddy,’ which is the only watercourse between the ‘Rio Virgin’ and ‘Vegas,’ in order to recruit our cattle. A desert 60 miles in length lies between the Muddy and Vegas, and it is destitute of water nearly the whole season. After leaving the Muddy we pushed our way along as fast as possible and camped near a patch of grass, which was only enough to meet the needs for one night. Charles complained of illness and we gave him a simple remedy, which soon quieted his pain and he fell asleep. Early the next morning we were under way and had the good fortune to find some grass and water in the afternoon. Charles rode all day upon a bed made in the wagon. At night he was apparently better, but the dampness of the wagon cover from the frequent showers of the day was not conducive to his comfort. On Sunday, Jan. 4th (1850) we arrived at the ‘Vegas’ (a fertile spot in the desert,) pitched our tent and collected a quantity of dry canes to spread upon the ground. We immediately made a bed for Charles and covered him snugly. He was suffering from a severe form of erysipelas and we gave him remedies that we hoped would ease his pain and quiet his nerves. On Monday morning he was somewhat better and when the sun rose he wrapped himself in his blanket and walked about considerably. A physician connected with our train gave him some remedies which alleviated his suffering and the next day he appeared better, but early in the evening he became sud-

denly worse and we became much alarmed about him. We called another physician, who was connected with Pomeroy's train, encamped nearby, to counsel with ours. I was pained to hear their decision that his symptoms were very unfavorable. They did all in their power to alleviate his trouble, but he became partly deranged and continued in that state until a few moments before he died at 5 o'clock in the morning of Jan. 9th, 1850."

The party entered the Mountain Meadow pass and reached the old Santa Fe and California trail 200 miles south of Salt Lake City. Progress along the trail was slow, San Bernardino Mission in Southern California being reached on Jan. 30th, and San Francisco about Feb. 15th. At San Francisco they met four other men from Perry who had gone by the Isthmus of Panama route, viz: Lee Higgins, Harvey Nobles, Alonzo Robbins and Frimate Jenks, a brother of the late Joshua Jenks. From them they received the first news from home since their departure.

Charles H. Homan and the late David Andrus were other Perry men who were numbered among the '49'ers, but none of them succeeded in making their fortune in the Golden State. Their experiences, however, were among the most exciting and interesting of their lives.

CHAPTER XI

The Silver Lake Sea Serpent, a Cleverly Conceived Hoax That Was Successfully Employed for Some Time and Brought Silver Lake Into Prominence.

In 1855, the villages of Perry and Castile were fearfully excited over the reported discovery of a wonderful and hideous monster that had been discovered in the liquid depths of beautiful Silver Lake. In time this excitement extended all over the State, and eventually to many parts of the entire United States. People came on foot, by carriage, on horseback, and, in fact, by any means of locomotion obtainable, to see if even a glimpse of the monster could be obtained, and the hotels found that they had "struck a bonanza." The Perry paper, edited by Truman S. Gillett, made hay while the sun shone and issued extras illustrated with cuts of the lake and the monster supposed to live in its depths, and these papers had a large sale. Dr. Sheldon Higgins, who was the proprietor of the Perry Drug Store, and who was also an adept in the engravers' art, furnished the cuts for the paper.



Old wood engraving made to illustrate the Sea Serpent.

An old whaleman by the name of Daniel Smith was imported, bringing his boat, harpoon and lances, and proved to be quite an object of curiosity to the people who congregated at the lake.

The writer is indebted to the Wyoming Times and an article published at the Castilian office in 1880 by Gaines & Terry for our narrative, and will begin the strange tale with the following article from the Times, dated Perry, July 18th, 1855:

APPEARANCE OF A SEA SERPENT IN SILVER LAKE

The Testimony of Five Credible Witnesses---Great Excitement,
Narrow Escapes, Etc.

“The beauties of Silver Lake, half a mile from this village have been recorded in prose and verse time and again. It is a splendid sheet of water, about four miles long and from one-half to three-quarters of a mile wide. Its outlet, after coursing through a deep gorge, flows into the Genesee River. It contains sites for 16 or 18 milling privileges, about half of which are improved. The lake is a great resort for fishing parties, muscallonge, pickerel and bass being caught here with live bait during the summer, and speared through the ice during the winter. Catfish or bullheads are as thick as grasshoppers in a wheat field. It is the resort of pleasure parties from the village and abroad, and seldom has anything occurred by which the fair fame of Silver Lake has been tarnished; nor has it acquired any other than an honest reputation as being one of the most beautiful, safe and desirable places of resort in the State, either for fishing or—in its season—hunting. But to our story:

“Friday evening last, as a party of which we formed one was disembarking from a trip up the lake, with a hundred pounds or less of dressed catfish, Messrs. Charles Hall, Joseph R. McKnight, Charles and Alonzo Scribner, accompanied by two boys named George Hall and John Scribner, were just leaving the landing on an evening's fishing excursion. The story of their voyage and its incident is theirs as related to us

in all sincerity, and we give it with the remark that the party had no liquor in their boat, nor was there any in or about the party.

“They left the landing near Mr. Howe’s pump factory about 7 p. m. on Friday, and rowed up the narrows of the outlet, where two of the party got out and dragged the boat through. As the channel became wider they took seats in the boat and rowed steadily up the lake. They anchored in about the center, near the northeast end, and began fishing. The evening was not dark; both shores were in view, and the stars and clouds appeared alternately. About 9 o’clock, as the entire party were fishing, McKnight—who sat in the stern of the boat—called attention to what had the semblance, though much larger, of a long tree trimmed off, lying on the surface of the water, north of their boat and a dozen yards off. All looked at it, and various suggestions were made regarding it. It appeared to be 80 or 100 feet long. However, the party continued fishing. The thing they saw, be it tree, log, or whatnot, remained in the same position for twenty minutes or half an hour. At about 9:30 it had disappeared, when or how the party had not observed. In about ten minutes McKnight called attention to the same object between the boat they occupied and the old sailboat ‘Frolic,’ which lies aground, disabled on the east shore. The center of the log, tree, or whatever it was, was in a direct line from the stern of the boat and not more than four rods away. After watching it a few minutes, McKnight, who was nearest it, exclaimed: ‘Boys, that thing is moving!’ All looked at it, but having concluded that it was a log, when first seen, continued pulling up the catfish. A few minutes more passed, and Hall noticing that it had and was changing its position, exclaimed: ‘See, it is bowing around!’ And true enough, so it was. All looked and saw the same movement. Its head—it could no longer be called a log—was now within three rods of the boat, and, as it approached, the waves parted on either side as if a boat were leisurely approaching.

“Scribner, in an attempt to cut the rope attached to the anchor and boat, lost his knife and pulled up the anchor. Hall grasped the oars and began pulling vigorously for the west

shore, McKnight steering the boat. Scribner took seat with Hall and assisted in rowing. All this was the work of an instant, and their mysterious and unwelcome guest disappeared while it was going forward, to the great joy of the party. But they were not clear of their visitor. The boat had not been propelled more than forty rods when the strange visitor was again visible on the surface for the third time, to the northeast of them, and between the boat and the outlet. This time the visitor was within one rod of the boat, and the party were making rapid progress toward the inlet. All in the boat saw the creature. It again disappeared.

“For the fourth time, when the party was within 35 or 40 rods from their proposed and now nearest landing point, the south side of the inlet, the Serpent—for now there was no mistaking its character—darted from the water, about 4 feet from the stern of the boat, close by the rudder paddle, the head and forward parts of the monster rising above the surface of the water 8 or 12 feet in an oblique direction from the boat. All in the boat had a fair view of the creature and concur in representing it as a most horrid and repulsive looking monster. McKnight has no doubt that the portion of the body above the water was as large in circumference as a flour barrel, while Hall—one of the oarsmen—thinks that it was the size of a butter firkin in circumference. Both agree as to the length exposed to view. On the opposite side of the boat, about a rod and a half to the northeast, the other extremity of the serpent was in full view, lashing the water with its tail. When the forward part descended upon the water it created waves that nearly capsized the boat and suspended regular operations at the oars.

“The party reached shore in safety, but frightened most out of their senses. They left the boat on the side of the lake farthest from home, and footed it home, some two miles, rather than venture down the outlet, not more than half a mile in length. It is almost needless to say that they slept little that night or the next. We will add, for the benefit of the incredulous, that these men are persons of character; they would be believed in this community in any ordinary matter between man and man. We admit that it is a large story, but it is about a

large serpent. He would be a monster at half the size. But here is the affidavit of two of the party:”

Joseph R. McKnight and Charles Hall, both being duly sworn, say that they have heard and read the article published in the Wyoming Times in relation to the serpent in Silver Lake, and that the statements there made are true of their own knowledge.

Signed, Joseph R. McKnight,
Charles Hall

Subscribed and sworn to this 16th day of July, 1855, before me.

Enos W. Frost,

Justice of the Peace

The publication of the preceding article set the ball in motion. The excitement ran high and was intensified the next week by the issue of the Times, which contained the following article under date of July 25th:

“Last week we gave as full and graphic an account of the monster seen in Silver Lake by Charles Hall and Joseph McKnight as we were able to procure. We now present to our readers such other information regarding the stranger as has come to hand. At the same time we assure our readers that we pay no regard to the many rumors afloat containing ‘sights’ seen at the lake, unless traced to the author, and his statement given without coloring.

“Saturday evening, the 14th inst., one day after McKnight and Hall with their party were fishing, and saw what they regarded and still regard as a monster serpent, Franklin Morgan, Abner Glazier, Eli Bishop and George Kingsley, young men from 16 to 23 years of age, residing on the west side of the lake, went down to bathe. They had heard the story that a monster had been seen in the lake, but as they had been acquainted with its waters for years and never seen anything unusual in or about them, laughed at the credulity of some persons and ridiculed the idea of there being anything there of unusual dimensions. They landed near the mouth of the inlet, had a good swim and dressed themselves, nothing occurring to especially attract their attention. They again took their boat, pushed

off to row up the lake, their landing place being on the same side, but some distance above. When 15 or 20 rods from the inlet, Morgan—who was steering the boat—heard a noise that sounded like a tow-line being raised from the water. Upon looking around he discovered the form of a bow upon the water, its center projecting a trifle above the water line, but both ends concealed from view. It formed a span of 10 to 12 feet long and appeared to be at least a foot in diameter and of a dark color. Glazier was paddling the boat on the north side and also saw it. It was then sinking and gradually disappeared. This occurred between 8 and 9 o'clock in the evening. Both shores of the lake and objects on them were in full view.

“These four men work on farms two or three miles from the village, and have no object in presenting a large story. After this straightforward recital by Mr. Morgan, we asked him if he would go bathing in the lake in the evening now? He promptly replied that he would not, unless very near the shore; nor in the daytime in the middle of the lake; that what he saw had the appearance of being a very large serpent.

“A reverend gentleman well known in this community and formerly a resident of this village, called upon us yesterday morning and stated that he had an interview on Monday with an Indian named John John, some 50 years of age, and in the course of conversation asked him if there was any truth in the rumor that the Indians on Squawkie Hill would not fish in Silver Lake? John John replied that it was true, and added that once upon a time two of the tribe encamped upon the shores of the lake one night and were frightened by the appearance of a serpent or monster. He inquired of the Indian what size the monster was. John John replied: ‘As big as a flour barrel.’ He asked John if it was in consequence of this that they would not bathe or fish there, and John replied in the affirmative.

“Since this occurrence several parties have visited the lake, but mostly during the day. It is now proposed, and we certainly hope that it will be carried out, to man one or two boats each evening and watch for the appearance of the monster. The various statements in regard to it, coming from persons

well known in this community, and persons, too, having no desire or object in misrepresenting such an occurrence, cannot be denied until after full and careful investigation. They are told with that sincerity that carries conviction with the recital; that the persons have seen something of an unusual character in the lake—something that frightened them exceedingly—and in one instance, at least, caused four men to row for shore, and that, too, distant one mile, rather than return down the short outlet but half a mile in length. Besides this, at intervals for several years, persons who have been called to the lake on business or for diversion, make somewhat similar representations, though on such occasions, extending through a period of 20 years, the monster has been curtailed of half its dimensions.

“After a thorough search had been made, and not till then, can the testimony of competent witnesses be disregarded and set aside because others have not been fortunate or unfortunate enough to have obtained a sight.”

In the meantime a Vigilance Society had been organized and the result of its labors may be found in the subjoined article from the Times, dated August 1st:

“We detest snake stories. There is no subject we approach with more disgust than a ‘yarn’ having one of those creeping, crawling, cursed reptiles for its foundation. But as faithful chroniclers of events in this quarter, as the publisher of a public journal, truthful in its character, and with a desire to its continuance in the same honest, but not heavily beaten track, we feel constrained to follow up the narrative of what has not only caused excessive frights in some parties recently—which has Indian tradition to back it, more recent evidence to sustain it—and has set the newspaper world in a blaze.

“As some of our exchanges doubt the assertion that the party with Hall and McKnight, whose narrative was first given, had no liquor with them, we will barely remark that both are honest, temperate and industrious mechanics, coopers by trade. One has been employed by Mr. Brown, the miller, for five years, and Mr. Brown regards him as a most truthful and honest man. The other has not resided in the village for so long a period, but bears upon his face the appearance of an

honest, truthful man. They do not fish as sporting, amateur fishermen often do, with the brandy bottle at their side and with more desire for that than for the fish. They fish when they do go upon such an excursion after a day's labor, and to procure them as food for their families, as well as affording pastime. So much for the men whose affidavits were appended to the first statement.

"Tuesday evening, the 24th, was dark and rain fell in torrents. The Vigilance Committee did not go out in search, and we have not learned that any party ventured upon the lake. Wednesday evening, the 25th, two or three boats well manned were upon the lake. One remained until 10 p. m. A heavy mist set in, completely enveloping the sky, hills and lake. Not an object was visible five rods from the boat, yet the men visited various parts of the lake and returned at the hour above indicated, without anything of an extraordinary character occurring.

"Thursday evening, the 26th, another party went out. The evening was beautiful; about every portion of the lake was in view under the pale rays of the full moon. They returned between 10 and 11 p. m. Nothing strange occurred. Friday afternoon, the 27th, as two farmers well known and highly respected, were working in the field near the lake, they saw something that appeared like a log, but three or four rods long, lying between the inlet and outlet. They noticed it some time, but soon after it had disappeared. They only say, if there is a serpent there they saw it, and that it is as long as has been represented.

"Friday evening another party visited the lake and returned between 10 and 11 p. m. without encountering anything of an unusual character. Saturday morning, the 28th, Mr. Hall—the gentleman who with Mr. McKnight and the Scribners saw what they regarded as a very large serpent—accompanied by his wife, daughter and one or two of the boys visited the lake. The wife and daughter had never been upon its waters, and although the father was much frightened some two or three weeks since at what had occurred while there, as hundreds had been upon and around the lake since that occurrence and noth-

ing unusual had taken place, took his family with him for the sail and at the same time to fish. The whole family saw the serpent, and we give the statement as related to us by the daughter, an intelligent girl of 15 or 16 years.

“ ‘We started between 8 and 9 p. m. Father rowed up the outlet, my brother sitting in the bow of the boat to inform him as to the course of the channel up the narrow and crooked passage. We entered the lake; the wind was quite high and the waves rocked the boat so much that mother requested father to row over to the other side, where the water appeared more still. Father rowed toward the inlet. When approaching it he suspended rowing and looked around to ascertain if he was in the right course, as no one was steering, and called attention to an object on the right hand side of the inlet, partly concealed by the rushes. My brother looked at it and began screeching and crying that it was the snake they had before seen. We all sat quietly in the boat and looked at it. It appeared to be of a dark color at first, but as it moved off going into the water, it was of a lighter color, of a copper color. At mother's request father turned the boat around and rowed for the outlet, mother standing up and looking back. She saw the same thing apparently following the boat some rods on, and told father to row for his life. I stood up and also saw it. Its head and forward part was above water at least a yard, and upon its back it appeared to have a fin as wide as father's hand. I was frightened and covered my face with my hands and resumed my seat. Its head was as much as 15 or 16 inches around and its back was much larger. (We here asked her if its head was as large as a dog's head and she replied that it was larger. Since then she has stated to others that it was as large as a calf's head.)’ ”

The above statement has been read to me and is true of my own knowledge.

Mary M. Hall.

I also subscribe fully to the facts set forth in the above statement.

Merilda C. Hall.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st day of July, 1855.

Cyrus Merrill,
Justice of the Peace.

“The party landed near Mr. Howe’s pump factory, and as a cloud of rain was about breaking, went in for shelter. Mr. Howe was there and we have had an interview with him. Mr. Howe, who is a straightforward man, says that Mr. Hall did not appear much frightened when the party came into the factory. He told the story in a straightforward manner. Mrs. Hall was much agitated, remarked that she did not want to go sailing, but was over-persuaded by her husband; that she had rather have washed steadily three days than have been so much frightened. Mr. Hall came down to the village, related the circumstance, and a number of men, well armed, repaired to the lake. They remained on or about it the remainder of the day, but saw nothing unusual.

“Saturday evening, two citizens who have been most skeptical in regard to the monster—and there are others of that character—Dr. Smith and Counselor Stoddard visited Mr. Hall and family. Mr. Hall and his wife related the occurrence very nearly as it is above stated by the daughter. The children were present and all corroborated the statement. These gentlemen made the visit purposely to probe the story to its foundation and cannot think that any family could unite in manufacturing such an absurd and monstrous ‘yarn’ out of whole cloth. Mr. Hall describes the appearance of the head of the reptile with much precision, and even the little boy about five years of age said he ‘saw a big snake; saw him squirm,’ etc.”

From the Wyoming Times, Aug. 1st, 1855.)

“On Monday, July 30th, 1855, quite a crowd of visitors were at the lake, endeavoring to get a sight of his majesty, the sea serpent. The well-authenticated statement of Hall, McKnight, John John, Morgan and others, has attracted to this village many of the citizens of the adjoining towns and villages. and quite a number of visitors from cities have taken quarters with their friends or are located at Walker’s well-kept hotel.

“To our surprise, on going to the lake on Monday we found seven boats well manned, upon its quiet waters, one being the center of attraction. We approached it and found

that it contained four young men from an adjoining town. One, Daniel Smith, had but recently returned from a four-years' whaling voyage. They were at the lake on Tuesday last, having previously heard of the Silver Lake sea serpent, saw about 40 feet of the monster, moved towards it, and as they neared it, his majesty, not fancying their appearance, glided off into deeper water and did not again appear on the surface. They returned home that evening. Under Smith's directions a harpoon lance and other instruments for capturing whales were manufactured, and on Monday the same party, with coils of rope and arms for capturing the serpent, was patiently in waiting for his appearance.

"This was a new and novel feature in the Silver Lake fishery, but no doubt one that the exigencies of the case demanded. While young men of our own village have watched for him almost nightly, as well as in the day time—while a joint stock company is being formed for the purpose of having proper instruments constructed to capture the monster alive, and while this suspense and doubt exists as to his snakeship's identity, his immense proportions, and the selection of his food. We are glad that parties in neighboring villages are not behind hand in desiring his capture, and that sufficient enterprise exists to lend our own energetic citizens a helping hand toward the accomplishment of that object.

"Of course, the public will believe, credit or reject as much of the story as they please. We have our own impressions regarding it, and as several correspondents have made the inquiry, we will say that we have no doubt that there is a reptile of unusual dimensions, that is harmless, or else half of the village—men and boys—would have mysteriously disappeared during the last quarter of a century, for it is a favorite bathing place and there are no families residing near enough to be in the least annoyed by their exhibitions while swimming. The search will be continued, and it is hoped that whatever there is at the lake of enormous size, beside pickerel, bass, etc., may be captured, and its full length and size be made known to the public. Unless captured soon, we shall have to publish a daily edition to keep our friends at a distance as well as here, fully posted."

August 8th, the enterprising publisher of the Times came "to the front" with the "clinch" which gave a substantiated account of the "monster" and caused old maids' teeth to chatter worse than ever, while the tide of emigration to the lake became much increased and the excitement correspondingly so.

"Wednesday, the 1st inst., the existence of a monster fish or serpent species in the quiet waters of Silver Lake was established beyond reasonable doubt, if indeed there has been room for doubt for a week past. At about noon on that day the monster was seen by at least half a dozen persons from different points of view, from the upland adjoining the lake. There were no boats out. Workmen on the farm of Mr. A. Macomber, not half a mile distant; two young men visiting at Mr. Macomber's, on another part of the farm; a young man named Merrill, from this village, from another point; a part of Mr. Macomber's family, from the upper window facing the lake, all saw the monster, apparently sunning himself on the surface of the water.

"A description is impossible, except of his movements. He moved and floundered about for 10 or 15 minutes. The parties were from one-quarter to one-half a mile distant. The water elsewhere on the lake was as smooth as glass, and there could be no deception or optical delusion in the vision of the parties. The parties saw it unknown to each other. Some of them have no personal acquaintance, and one or two are yet most ready to disbelieve their senses rather than to run counter to well-established theory in regard to snakeology.

"For ourselves we are forced to admit the fact of the existence of a monster of the serpent species, of immense proportions, in Silver Lake, unless we disbelieve merely because we have not seen. We hope, however, to announce before long that he has been captured. Every effort is being made to accomplish that object. We assert without fear of contradiction, that there is not a log floating on the water of Silver Lake; that nothing has been placed there to create the serpent story, and that what is above stated, and what has appeared in the Wyoming Times regarding a serpent in Silver Lake has been related to us by candid, honest and truthful men and women—persons who

have not flinched in testifying to the facts as given to the public.

“The above appeared in an extra from this office on Wednesday. We forwarded it to our city exchanges, that they might keep their thousands of readers posted as to the actual existence in Silver Lake of a monster which has been repeatedly seen during the past 30 years, whose species is unknown, and whose haunting place is uncertain. It truly seems incredible. In many quarters it is so treated, yet when we aver that some of those who have seen it are the persons who are spending days and nights at the lake to effect its capture, that they are endeavoring to bring about the result by means of live bait in the shape of ducks or chickens attached to large hooks with buoys in the distance; that one sailor who has been for four years upon the Pacific, engaged in the capture of whales, having seen it in company with three other persons, has had constructed instruments which he believes necessary to its capture; that they have seen it, too, with the full glare of day upon it, we cannot resist the conviction that there is in that little lake a fish or reptile of extraordinary dimensions. The men who have been favored with a sight and whose story was at first hooted at, as well as those who have seen it since, confirm their belief by their acts. They know that such a creature exists there and they are determined to capture it if that be possible.

“Two men of this village, who were there on Friday in a boat, both responsible and candid men, were favored with a view of the monster. They went and are now there, having engaged a boat for one month, to convince themselves as well as satisfy the public.”

Edwin Fanning, long a resident of Perry, relates his wonderful experience in an affidavit published in the Times of Aug. 16th, as follows:

“The following statement made by Edwin Fanning of this village, duly attested, accompanied by the endorsement of several prominent citizens as to Fanning’s character for truth and veracity, cannot but confirm and strengthen the very general belief that there is a monster in Silver Lake. In fact,

the evidence in regard to it is undisputed in any quarter, and the candor and sincerity of witnesses is unquestioned.

“When falsehood is so apparent as in a letter purporting to emanate from this village, published in the Buffalo Republic of Tuesday, it is almost unnecessary to refute or contradict it.

Edwin Fanning's Statement

“I went up to Chapin's Landing, Silver Lake, about 6 o'clock Wednesday evening, the 15th inst., remained there about 15 minutes and then walked down the shore of the lake, past the old sailboat 'Frolic' to the point of the jutting promontory. I remained there and looked at the birds flying around the foot of the lake. On glancing my eye across the lake to the westward, in the range of the mouth of the inlet and about 15 rods from where I was standing, a monster of a serpent rose out of the water, exhibiting at least eight feet of the forward portion of its body above the water. In a few seconds he disappeared; in about three minutes afterward he again came to the surface, about the same length being exposed to view as before. He remained on the surface of the water at least three minutes, making evolutions similar to those of a snake. He turned his head and the forward portion of his body, and appeared to be looking around him. The third time he came up he apparently sported on the water, drew up his body as a snake does on the ground, dove down his head portion, and projected portions of his body out of the water, as though full of joints. These movements were continued nearly half an hour. His body was as large as a large barrel: his head about a foot in diameter at the largest point. He spouted water from his mouth at least four feet high and it would fall back upon him like the play of waters from a fountain. His length I should think was at least 100 feet. I called to Mr. Sharpsteen's men who were working in a field, but they did not come. I related the circumstances to them as I returned. When I called to Mr. Sharpsteen's men, the serpent was playing upon the water. My calling did not disturb him. I remained there until he disappeared and did not again come up. The sun was shining at the time. I was on the east side of the lake and saw the serpent as distinctly as I ever saw anything in my life. He

was about 15 or 16 rods from me, was of a beautiful dark green color, and appeared to be perfectly smooth. I will be 21 years of age next April.

“I do solemnly swear and certify that the above statement, which I have related and which has been read to me, is true of my own knowledge.”

(Signed) Edwin Fanning.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 15th day of August,
1855.

Cyrus Merrill,

Justice of the Peace.

“We, the undersigned, have known Edwin Fanning, whose statement is above recorded, for several years. He is a resident of this village; he has always maintained a good character, and is a young man of intelligence, truth and veracity.”

Signed by Cyrus Merrill, H. N. Page, S. Higgins, S. P. Bullard, C. W. Bailey, B. B. Higgins, C. P. Bailey and C. L. Hatch.

Perry, August 15th, 1855.

“The above was issued from this office on Thursday last and sent to the daily papers with which we exchange. We have nothing more to add to it. The young man who makes the statement and testifies to it has resided here for several years and is well known by many of our citizens.”

On the 22d the Times satiated the eagerness of its readers with the following:

“Daniel Smith, to whom allusion was made a week or two ago as being a returned whaler, after a four-years’ cruise, was in town again on Saturday. He brought with him his harpoon and lance and proposes to remain during the week. He has visited the lake each day since his return, but has not been fortunate enough to get even a glimpse of the serpent which he is satisfied from actual observation exists in Silver Lake.”

The writer of this history will not attempt to give all of the corroborative evidence. To prove the serpent’s existence anything but a myth, the grim monster appeared to many who

have not been mentioned, probably aggregating at least 100 different people, many of whom hurried at once to the Justice's office to make their affidavits. Visitors came by the hundreds from all parts of the State, completely swamping the hotels and necessitating the opening of private residences to accommodate the throngs. Crowds lined the lake every clear night during August and September. Skepticism had been overcome, and nearly everyone believed that the monster really existed. Plans were continuously brought forward to effect its capture. A tower was erected at the north end of the lake and a sentinel equipped with a spy-glass was on duty each day, keeping a strict watch on the movements of the serpent. Hunters lined the shores, "armed to the teeth," and two or three were fortunate enough to get distant shots at the monster. The Times of Sept. 5th relates that Mr. Joshua Jenks, a local resident was one of those so favored. Mr. Jenks was prepared to shoot the serpent, was but three rods from it, but being thrown off his guard by its sudden appearance, and somewhat alarmed, did not get correct aim before the reptile disappeared. Some of the citizens put out set-lines made by using clothes-lines and an enormous hook turned out by the village blacksmith, baited with ducks, fresh pork, etc., the whole being supported by a small buoy.

The Last of the Matter.

From the Times of Sept. 5th, 1855.

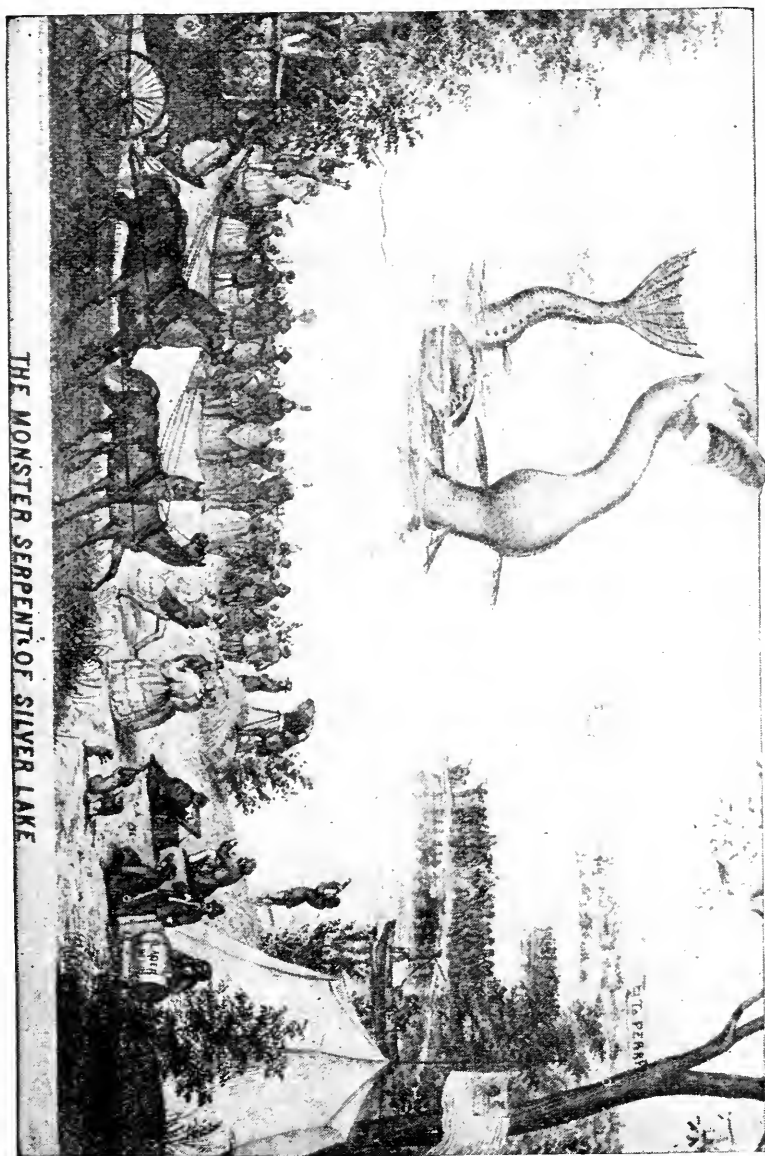
"Two weeks ago a company was organized with a capital stock of \$1,000, with ten per cent. paid in, with the following named officers: Hon. R. H. Smith, president; R. C. Mordoff, treasurer; H. N. Page, secretary. Said company to be known as 'The Experiment Company,' organized to devise ways and means to capture the snake. During the present week, very little of what the committee are doing has transpired. Last week, several members visited Buffalo, conversed with several of the oldest fishermen there and availed themselves of the suggestions and experience. It has been suggested to the com-

mittee that Mr. Green, a submarine diver now engaged in raising the treasure of the 'Atlantic' in Lake Erie, might prove of service in the capture of the monster. Whether the suggestion will be acted upon by the committee is yet a matter of doubt. Another suggestion, and one that could be easily tested, is to place live bait in and around the marsh where the serpent has been most frequently seen, elevated sufficiently to give those watching a fair shot at his majesty, should he appear. Various other suggestions are before the committee, but they seem to keep their affairs to themselves, at least for the present."

The Cause of All the Excitement, or the Real Snake.

Business had been very quiet in the hotel line in Perry for several seasons. Various schemes for improving conditions had been considered, and to the late A. B. Walker is credited the plan of creating the Silver Lake sea serpent. Confiding the proposition to a few of his intimate and trustworthy friends, he found that it met with their instant approval. Of various plans discussed, the following was deemed the most practical and surerest of ultimate success. The serpent was to be constructed of a body about 60 feet long, covered with a waterproof canvas supported on the inside by coiled wire. A trench was to be dug and gas pipe laid from the basement of a shanty situated on the west side of the lake, to the lake shore. A large pair of bellows such as were used in a blacksmith shop, secreted in the basement of the shanty connected to that end of the pipe, and a small light rubber hose from the lake end to the serpent. The body was to be painted a deep green color, with bright yellow spots added to give it a more hideous appearance. Eyes and mouth were to be colored a bright red. The plan of manipulating the serpent was simple. It was to be taken out and sunk in the lake, and then when everything was ready, the bellows were to be operated and air forced into the serpent, which naturally would cause it to rise to the surface. Weights were to be attached to different portions of the body to insure its

sinking as the air was allowed to escape. Three ropes were to be attached to the forward portion of the body, one extending to the shore where the ice house now stands; one across the



lake, and the other to the marsh at the north end; the serpent to be propelled in any direction by the aid of these ropes.

Many nights were spent by these friends in its construction. It is said that the serpent was made in the old Chapin tannery, which it will be remembered, was situated in the outlet ravine. At last it was completed and taken at night to the lake and sunk in about 20 feet of water. One of the men went across to the shanty to operate the bellows, the others remaining near the spot where the serpent was sunk, to note the result of their labors. They did not have long to wait, for suddenly the head of the serpent appeared and rose gracefully to a height of about eight feet above the water. Other portions of the monster became visible and the entire construction was so lifelike that it sent the shivers coursing through the bodies of the builders. It was towed about by the men for a time to be certain that it would remain upright and work well generally. Then the signal was given, the bellows stopped forcing the air, and the monster which was to place Perry and Silver Lake "on the map" forever sank rapidly and soon disappeared from view. Its tryout proved a great success, even more so than its builders had anticipated.

The thing to do now was for them to wait for a favorable time to "spring it" upon the people. On Friday evening, July 13th, 1855, one of the men reported a boatload of men engaged in fishing not far from where the serpent was secreted. Other conditions being favorable, it was decided that the proper time to open the show had arrived. It was destined to be a larger and more nerve-racking entertainment than any of them had dreamed.

After a period of several weeks of genuine excitement, pleasure, and a greatly increased business at the hotel, it began to dawn upon the men that things would be mighty hot for them in this section of the country if their mischief were found out. On two or three occasions only a miracle seemed to have prevented discovery, and finally, after one of these narrow

escapes, it was decided that the sea serpent had done its full duty, had accomplished the purpose for which it was constructed, and now must disappear forever. Accordingly, it was taken from the lake and stored in the attic of the hotel. When the Walker House was destroyed by fire in this village in 1857 the remains of the great hoax were discovered in getting out some of the contents of the building.

Following its removal from the lake to its place of hiding there was patient waiting on the part of people for its reappearance at its frequent haunts, but no indications of a solution of the great mystery becoming apparent, the excitement gradually abated, visitors departed to their homes, and the old time routine of village affairs succeeded, and the Silver Lake Sea Serpent passed into history.

CHAPTER XII

Political Divisions Existing in the Early Days—Anti-Masonic Feeling Entered Into Politics but Soon Died Out. Beginning of Anti-Slavery Crusade.

Political opinion in the early days of the settlement of Perry was divided into two principal parties, viz: the Federal and the Republican. Prior to the War of 1812 the Federals were exceedingly popular, but their opposition to the carrying on of that war caused many desertions from their ranks and eventually the party dropped their name and its members became affiliated with other organizations. The Republicans had been termed by their opponents, by way of ridicule and reproach, "Democrats," a name which they came gradually to adopt. About the year 1815 this party was also known as "The Bucktails." After the disappearance of the Federal party their main opponents were "The Clintonians." They were afterwards known as "National Republicans," which name distinguished them from the "Democrat-Republicans" or Democrats, as the old Republican party was afterwards called.

The Anti-Masonic party had its origin in the excitement following the publication of a book purporting to disclose the secrets of Free Masonry and the subsequent disappearance of its author, Wm. Morgan, a resident of Batavia. The party became fully organized in 1828 and at once became exceedingly strong in this section of the State. In 1832 the Anti-Masonic party consolidated with the National Republicans for the purpose of carrying the State for their ticket and electing the National Republican candidate (Henry Clay) for President. The objects of this coalition were not attained, however, and

the Anti-Masonic party ceased to exist soon after the campaign ended.

The Whig party, which later became one of the chief contenders for honors at the polls, grew out of the combination of the two above mentioned parties, and that name was retained by them until the formation of the Republican party in 1855. Local residents who were prominent Whigs of the period of 1840-50 were: Robert and Peter Patterson, Calvin P. Bailey and I. N. Stoddard. Prominent Democrats of that time were: Rufus H. Smith, Wm. Mitchell, Moseley Stoddard, Linus W. Thayer and James Sherman.

A local history of the campaign of 1840, which ended in a notable victory for the Whigs, was kindly furnished the writer by the Hon. Harwood A. Dudley of Warsaw, a short time before his death in May, 1914. Mr. Dudley became a resident of Perry in 1831. The article was originally written for the Perry Record and published in that paper in 1898.

The Campaign of 1840.

The political campaign of 1840 is still remembered by people who are old enough to remember the stirring scenes which occurred 58 (now 75) years ago. It differed from the rough-and-ready campaign of 1844, when Henry Clay was defeated. The campaign of 1840, which resulted in the election of Gen. Wm. Henry Harrison, is often referred to as "the singing campaign." The Whigs were certainly in a musical frame of mind and the campaign songs of the period are yet retained in the memory of many people. The refrain of

"Tippecanoe and Tyler, too

And with them we'll beat Little Van.

Van, Van, Van, is a used up man,

And with them we'll beat Little Van,"

fixed itself deep in the mind of a boy who was then 16 years of age, and often comes up for review, with all of the attendant circumstances of its original rendering. The song was printed on slips of paper and distributed at a meeting held in a log



CALVIN P. BAILEY.

Member of Assembly, 1829-1830.

Full of energy as a pioneer business man; fearless, enthusiastic and ready for any emergency. With entire confidence in the future of Perry, he was ready to embark in any enterprise that needed push and pluck to make it a success. A man of great native talent; a strong Whig partisan.

(H. A. Dudley.)

cabin erected for political purposes; or, rather, to be the center of the gatherings, for the cabin would not generally hold the crowds that gathered to hear the speeches and sing the songs that helped to keep up the enthusiasm of the campaign.

The log cabin in the Village of Perry stood on the corner of Main and Covington streets, so that the crowd of people could find standing room on the ground immediately surrounding the cabin, as well as on two broad streets of the village. The logs for the cabin had been contributed by the Whig farmers of the region, and the slabs for the roof had been drawn from the upper saw mill by Mrs. James Sherman, whose husband was a mild and subdued Democrat. She drove her own team, standing up man-fashion on the load, and was received with the hearty cheers of the enthusiastic Whigs, who took the team from the wagon and unloaded the slabs, when Mrs. Sherman was drawn by hand to the front of the hotel, where a Whig orator thanked her for her contribution toward the election of Harrison. The old song was never sung more enthusiastically than on that occasion. This event woke up the dazed Democrats, who thought to annoy the Whigs by taking advantage of the cover of night to bore holes in the flag-staff so that, when a strong wind should blow, the weakened pole would break off at the peak of the roof. The mischief was discovered at daylight and the pole was braced up and strengthened. A watch was maintained all through the campaign to prevent another attempt to injure the property or the cause. A man and boy were always on duty after that occurrence to thwart the jealous Democrats, either to take away the braces from the pole, steal the coon skins tacked up by the side of the door, or carry off the cider barrel that was kept on tap near the entrance. My turn at watching came with Walter Scott Bailey, one of the most enthusiastic young Whigs of the town. The service was cheerfully rendered by both of us.

Alfred S. Patterson, a venerable resident of Westfield, performed a feat of horsemanship during that campaign which probably has never been excelled. Mr. Patterson then lived in Perry. He drove from the village to Rochester, a distance of over 40 miles, a 40-horse team attached to a two-story log cabin on wheels. The structure contained over 100 persons who made

the trip in this novel fashion to attend a monster Whig demonstration. It took all one day to accomplish the feat, but Mr. Patterson landed his load on time. A remarkable feature of the trip was the successful turning of Buffalo and Exchange streets in that city. Thousands of people witnessed and applauded the act.

There was a combination of patriotic feeling and pioneer enthusiasm in the campaign of 1840 that was unique and telling in its effects. It was the first break of the people from a long line of Democratic successes, which may be said to have derived its strength from the vigor of the Jackson regime. The campaign touched the hearts of "the common people," or as Lincoln called them, "the plain people," and they determined to throw off the yoke of what they believed to be a Democratic aristocracy, which seems to be a paradox. The line of Presidents had all been from the South; the North had a strong voting power, but not much influence at Democratic conventions, and this good-natured campaign seemed to have been a turning point in our political history, which is still felt and recognized.

Systematic agitation of the slavery question began in 1833, during which year "The American Anti-Slavery Society" was formed. From then on until the close of the Civil War, slavery became the main issue of contention. From time to time the Legislature had enacted laws concerning slavery, extending up to the year 1819. In 1799 a law was passed providing for the gradual extinction of slavery in New York State. In 1817 a further act was passed decreeing that there should be no slavery in the State after the 4th of July, 1827. Ten thousand slaves were set free by this act. County organizations of The American Anti-Slavery Society were formed throughout the State. Such a society was formed in this county (then Genesee) about the year 1836 at Batavia. The pro-slavery agitators were quite numerous in the Northern States at this time, and several meetings of the local society, and other abolition rallies

were broken up through their efforts. In explanation of this it should be understood that at this time there was a general feeling all through the North that slavery was allowed and upheld by the Constitution of the United States, and as a consequence, many people opposed the abolition movement.

The Genesee County Anti-Slavery Society, at a meeting convened at Warsaw on March 23d, 1836, decided to establish a paper for the purpose of expressing the abolition sentiment. One thousand dollars was subscribed for its support the first year. This paper, *The American Citizen*, was accordingly established at Warsaw, but at the end of a year its finances were in such condition that its abandonment appeared necessary. At this juncture, Mr. Josiah Andrews of Perry, an ardent supporter of the anti-slavery cause, purchased the newspaper and outfit and removed it to Perry, furnishing the capital for its continuance. David Mitchell and ——— Lewis were its publishers, Mr. Lewis soon retiring and being succeeded by Ansel Warren. In January, 1841, the publication was removed to Rochester.

This was not the only philanthropy of Mr. Andrews, who was perhaps the best read and educated man in the town at that time. He was born in Buckfield, Maine, in 1799, and came to Perry in 1817, his brother Mark having made his home here the year previous. With the exception of six years spent in Cincinnati, O., he resided in Perry until his death in 1847. Mr. Andrews was known as the village orator and poet. In the earliest days of the anti-slavery crusade Mr. Andrews was an earnest foe of the evil and for a time was connected with the "underground railroad" and assisted slaves in escaping pursuit under the fugitive slave law. He was liberal in giving to all good causes in which he was interested, and was probably Perry's greatest temperance advocate, going so far as to purchase the old National Hotel for the sole purpose of hav-

ing it conducted as a temperance tavern, in opposition to the other hotels which were licensed.

The Liberal Party, formed from the American Anti-Slavery Society, was organized in 1839. Although it had many sup-



JOSIAH ANDREWS

porters in this section of the State, a great majority of the Abolitionists refused to join the new party, preferring to remain with the old parties and voting for candidates who were opposed to the extension of slavery and in favor of its gradual extinction.

For a few years previous to 1848, the Democrats had been divided into two factions, namely: "Hunkers" and "Barn .

Burners," the last named being opposed to slavery extension. The Liberty Party and the Barn Burners joined forces and organized the "Free Soil Party" in 1848. At the ensuing election many of the Whigs voted with the new party, and together they made a formidable combination.

Among the Perry men who were active supporters of this movement were D. L. Gilman and L. A. Haywood, both prominent lawyers of the village. In 1850 the Barn Burners and Hunkers settled their differences, reunited and nominated Horatio Seymour for Governor. Many of the Hunkers were opposed to this union. These were known as "hard shells" and those who favored the proposition were termed "soft shells." At this time the Whig party became affiliated with factions known as "conservatives" or supporters of the administration, and the "radicals," who were under the leadership of Wm. H. Seward. In Perry and vicinity the radicals of the Whigs and the soft shells of the Democrats were largely in the majority in their respective parties.

In 1852 the Whigs were overwhelmingly defeated at the polls and from the ruins of the organization was formed the present Republican party. This party included many who had belonged to the Barn Burner faction of the Democrats. The Republican party was established for the purpose of fighting the extension of slavery. At that time the feeling regarding the slavery question ran high, and the Republican success of 1860 precipitated the great Civil War and the final extinction of slavery.

The Prohibition Party and other political organizations that have come into existence since the Civil War have had some adherents in Perry, but the great majority of the citizens of the town were affiliated with either of the dominant parties—Republican and Democratic—until the formation in 1912 of

the National Progressive party, which caused some defection from the ranks of both of the great parties, principally from the Republican. In local government, party lines have been largely obliterated and voters have acted independently on many occasions.

As far as spectacular features are concerned, Presidential campaign rallies—especially of the earlier days—have always been red letter occasions in the town's local history. Marching clubs from neighboring towns, with their gay uniforms, torches, red fire, drum corps, bands, etc., were always on hand to make and stimulate enthusiasm. Main street was usually gaily attired for such occasions and presented an avenue of color. The business places, with few exceptions, participated in the general effort to make Perry as brilliant and attractive as possible. The store windows and those of private residences along the line of march of the various parading clubs showed grandly in their array of designs, from colored paper, lanterns, flags, bunting, and the ornamented pictures of the party candidates. The men and women who were deeply interested in the success of the party in whose honor the decorations were made exhibited great enthusiasm, and the children were delighted by the display, which was only to be witnessed in the larger of the country towns. Pole-raisings with speeches were frequent features of Presidential campaigns. Each of the local political organizations had its respective marching club and vied with those of other towns in making the best appearance, also in producing the unique in attractions, such as the 40-horse team hauling the log cabin to Rochester, as previously mentioned. During the campaign of 1888 the Carile Republican Club came to Perry drawn by two traction engines. The uniforms and insignia of the marching clubs usually brought out some characteristic of the party's candidates, as in the Lincoln campaign of 1860 the marchers

carried large tin beetles, wedges and rails, symbolical of the Great Rail-Splitter; and again the Roosevelt campaign of 1904, at which time the last political marching club was formed in Perry, when their costume consisted of the uniform adopted by the Roosevelt Rough Riders.

The little cannon now adorning the pinnacle of the Robeson Cutlery Co's stone building has spoken in sonorous tones at many of the early campaign rallies.

CHAPTER XIII

Perry's Part in the Civil War—Organization of the 24th New York Battery, in which Many Local Residents Enlisted—Town's Loyalty and Patriotism Abundantly Evidenced.

A history of the 24th New York Battery was written by J. "Wheat" Merrill and published in 1870. It is hardly necessary to state that this work has been used extensively in the preparation of the following paragraphs.

Systematic agitation of the slavery question which was destined to result in the greatest of civil wars, began in about 1833. People in general throughout this section were ardently opposed to legislation which would permit the extension of slavery into our new states or territories. Anti-slavery societies were formed and many meetings were held advocating the restriction of slavery to certain bounds, and leading to its gradual extinction. Among the residents of Perry who were active in the abolition movement were: Josiah Andrews, David Mitchell, Ansel Warren, Samuel Phoenix, Willard J. Chapin and a Mr. Lewis. The movement inaugurated by these societies throughout the country never lost its momentum, but gained followers as the years advanced. Local churches took decided stands against slavery, a position from which they never receded. The local press continually denounced the pro-slavery leaders of the country. Noted orators visited the town from time to time and did their full share in arousing anti-slavery sentiment.

Citizens of the country throughout the North did not believe that the differences of opinion held between the North and the South would result in armed conflict, and not until like a thunderclap came the news of the firing upon Fort Sum-

ter did they appreciate to what extreme measures the South would go in defense of its convictions. But when war came it found Perry ready. No town in the United States was more loyal, none more generous, none more enthusiastic. The first citizen of Perry to volunteer his services in defense of the Union was Mr. M. S. Salisbury, who enlisted on April 25th, 1861, in Company C, 74th New York State Militia. On account of no more militia regiments being accepted by the Government, he promptly re-enlisted in Company C, 21st New York Volunteers, on May 7th, 1861. A few others followed Mr. Salisbury's lead and enlisted in regiments of their choice during the Summer months. In the Fall of that year, Mr. Jay E. Lee, a young and successful lawyer of Perry, convinced that more men were needed for the army, determined to offer his services. Upon investigating the tactics of the different branches of the service, he selected the artillery as that most needed and desirable. Together with Mr. James Wyckoff and Harry C. Page, he set forth interesting the young men of the place in organizing a company which would represent the town and vicinity in the Federal Army.

In the local columns of the Wyoming Times, under date of September 27th, 1861, we find the following paragraph:

"Meetings and speeches in favor of the war, we had supposed 'played out.' Action, action is now the word. All are enlightened on the subject of war, or ought to be. Monday evening, however, another meeting was held, called by Messrs. Wyckoff, Lee and Page, with a view of obtaining recruits for a company of artillery. Prof. Atkins was called to the chair, whereupon J. E. Lee, Esq., stated that it was their purpose to organize an artillery company to be attached to G. D. Bailey's regiment, and enlarged at some length upon the advantage of this branch of the service over all others. He was followed by Harry C. Page, Prof. Atkins, Rev. Mr. Tomlinson, Rev. Joseph R. Page, Judge Gilman, N. P. Currier and Philander Simmons, after which an opportunity was given to enlist."

The result of this meeting was a response from about 50 men to the call, who pledged themselves to the organization proposed. For some reason or other, which we are unable to explain, when the actual time came for going to Buffalo for muster, only 20 of the number kept the faith. These consolidated with other squads from other towns and formed a company of which Mr. Lee was elected captain. Soon after he received his commission, the people of Perry, appreciating his efforts and ability, presented him with a purse of \$65, contributed by them for the purpose of purchasing side arms for his use in the service of his country.

Having completed the organization, the company remained at recruiting headquarters (Fort Porter, Buffalo) until about the middle of November. Then they left for Albany with 56 men. While at this post, Major Thomas W. Lion, inventor of a fire rocket, introduced himself to their notice. A description of this rocket is found in an editorial of *The Times*, Dec. 20th, 1861:

“Various statements have appeared in the papers relative to the ‘rocket gun,’ and none precisely alike, yet all representing this arm of the service as a most terrible one. It has never been used on this continent, and experienced artillerymen have never seen it. The papers and Government are only in the secret. Its principal purpose appears to be to throw a flame of fire sufficiently large to frighten horses and thus throw the enemy’s cavalry into confusion. Of course, the battalion must have the right of the advancing army and take their chances of having their rockets silenced by the picked riflemen of the opposing forces. The rocket gun is represented as having a breech-loading field piece capable of discharging bombs, balls and percussion shots as well as rockets. The rockets are to be used for firing buildings behind which the enemy may seek shelter, or for removing by fire any obstacle thrown out to retard the advancement of the troops. The expansive properties of the rocket are wonderful, creating a ball of fire 15 feet in diameter, which can be thrown by this breech-loading projectile

5300 yards, or over three miles. It is stated that the Government has purchased the exclusive right of manufacturing this terrible instrument of destruction and will soon introduce it to the rebels."

As Major Lion desired to form a battalion to use this rocket in the field, a consolidation of several squads of recruits occupying the barracks at Albany then formed "The Rocket Battalion," consisting of companies A and B, 80 men each. Captain Lee's company formed company B. In December the battalion received orders to report in Washington, where, after a delay of nearly four months, the long-looked-for rocket guns were turned over to them. After several weeks of experimenting the "guns" were proven an inglorious failure, owing principally to the fact that they could not be used with any great degree of accuracy. Mr. Merrill relates:

"Upon one occasion, while at target practice, we were shooting at a blanket, and some miserable scamp stole the blanket while we were still shooting at it."

At other times it would take a circle similar to the boomerang and return quite near the gun which started it upon its mission; and so it was concluded, as Gen. Burnside was in need of artillery, to give the men some guns and send them on. The quaint rocket carriages were exchanged for the more substantial six-pounder carriage and the sheet iron tubes were turned into rifle cannon.

Battery B then consisted of four three-inch rifled pieces and just enough men and horses to man them. From various causes, each of the two batteries in the battalion had diminished in numbers. As a whole they would have no more than could properly man one six-gun battery. About the last of June, 1862, Company B was placed in the third division and Company A in the second division as independent four-gun batteries, named respectively, Captain Lee's battery and Captain

Ransom's battery. On the 3d of July, 1862, Captain Lee's battery was ordered to outpost duty at Newport Barracks and their duties began to be like those of a soldier. For the present we leave the nucleus of the 24th New York Battery and return to Perry to speak of those who were enlisting to go to Newport Barracks and fill up their ranks.

On the 22d of August, 1862, Mr. George S. Hastings, junior member of the law firm of Lee & Hastings, received authority to raise recruits to join Captain Lee's battery. In one week 50 men had volunteered; another week had increased the number to 60. Mr. Merrill says: "The Union Army was meeting with defeat and loss of men. The President made a call for 300,000 more. The smothered fire of patriotism that was burning in the hearts of the young men of Perry burst forth, and father's commands, mother's warnings, nor sweetheart's pleadings and caresses could avail aught in trying to subdue the flame. 'Twas contagious and spread with such uncontrollable rapidity that in a short time about 60 more of the bravest and best young men of Perry and vicinity had come forward and enlisted in the cause. Full of the ambition and pride of youth, full of patriotic fervor and eager for the strife, believing that we could help to redeem what others had lost, we did not stop to think or realize how true might be our parents' predictions, or the fears and presentiments of our friends. What a blessing to man is ignorance of the future! The men, with but few exceptions were young, and the galaxy of the town in which they lived. Their enlistment seemed a spontaneous outburst of the single thought that had dwelt in many minds with equal power: 'Young men for war, old men for counsel.' Resolution, courage and determination were stamped in the faces of all. Like the clans of the feudal times of old, they meant to show that the flower and the pride of the country would win the crown of victory or death, and like those stories of old, the

long, long days passed slowly by; the weary home watchers waited, hoped and feared till finally a remnant few returned in a pitiful plight to bear the sad tidings of defeat, of suffering and death."

The citizens of the town encouraged recruiting in many ways. A great deal of enthusiasm was exhibited throughout the vicinity. Generous bounties were offered and paid. At this time it must be remembered that the Government did not pay bounties to recruits. The town bounty fund raised by the citizens of Perry amounted to about \$6,000. In their sphere the women of Perry labored with an enthusiasm fully equal to that of the men, and the hospital stores and comforts for the sick and wounded in the field, which they prepared and sent to the seat of war, solaced the sufferings of many a poor soldier. During the entire period of the war the women of the town were active in their good work.

The men recruited by Mr. Hastings took their departure for the seat of war on Sept, 10th, 1862. The citizens turned out early in the morning to bid a last good-bye to the boys and about 6 o'clock they were on their way to Castile Station, where they boarded the cars for Buffalo. After a few days' stay in Buffalo, during which time they were mustered into the service, the recruits were sent to Newport Barracks by way of Albany, New York and Newberne, N.C., where there were warmly greeted by their old friends and acquaintances, who were glad to have their companionship and assistance. On the 19th of October, orders were received designating the company as "The 24th Independent Battery of Light Artillery, New York State Volunteers." After the names of the newcomers had been added to the muster roll, it contained the names of five officers and 126 men. The battery remained at Newport Barracks about five months, during which time the boys were called out on one scouting expedition and one trip to New-

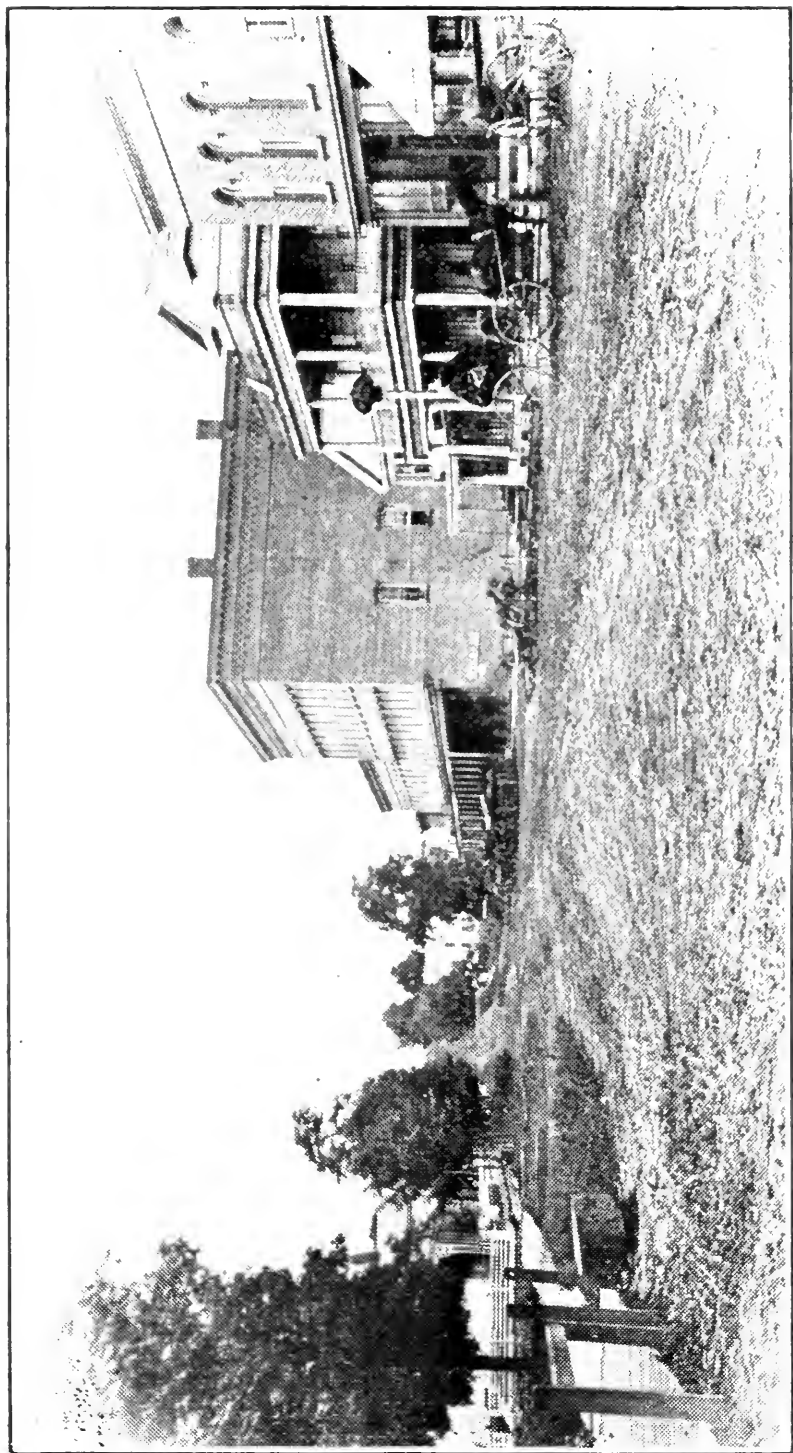
berne. On the 11th of December, two detachments of the battery went with Gen. Foster and participated in the battles of Kingston, Whitehall and Goldsboro. Soon after the return of the troops from the expedition to Goldsboro, the battery received six very handsome new six-pounder Napoleon guns, an additional supply of horses, new harness, and new equipment throughout.

They remained at Newberne until about the middle of March, 1863, when a feint was made on that place by the rebels, and soon afterwards they advanced upon Plymouth, N. C. About the first of April the battery was sent to Plymouth, where it remained about a year. Early in 1863, Captain Lee suffered a severe hemorrhage of the lungs, the result of exposure and over-exertion, which unfortunate event compelled him to resign his commission on June 13th, 1863, Lieut. L. E. Cady succeeding him in command of the battery. The Winter of that year passed pleasantly with the men of the battery, but the Spring brought the Battle of Plymouth, which ended in bringing them all together as prisoners of war. One of them in an account of this battle has said: "Up to this time the history of the battery had been a pleasant one. We had our petty quarrels and animosities; we had suffered from jealousies and disappointments; we had accused and been accused; but these things were trifles after all, and it needed but a day of genuine trouble in common to bring us all to a united sympathy and an interchange of kindly words and kindly feeling. So far, I say, our army experience had been unusually free from hardships. At Newport Barracks we had comfortable log houses for our quarters, plenty of food, plenty of clothing, and only enough drill for good gymnastic exercise. At Newberne we had been furnished new tents and new barracks, and there, too, our quarters, food and raiment were excellent, and our duties comparatively light. At Plymouth we used unoccupied

houses for quarters. Our scouting duty had been but a pleasant excitement. The only affliction we experienced was the monotony arising from garrison duty. An inactive soldier's life is a lazy life at the best, and ignorant and thoughtless of what the result might be, we welcomed the attack which was to end so disastrously for us."

On the 17th of April, 1864, the cavalry of the rebels attacked the pickets of the garrison, and it soon became evident that something more than a feint or raid was intended. The garrison consisted of 1900 effective men under Gen. Wessells. Non-combatants were removed during the following night and preparations were made to resist the attack. Desultory firing was kept up during the night and the next day it was steadily maintained until about 5 o'clock p. m., when an advance was made and earnest fighting began. The rebel artillery, consisting of about forty pieces, opened fire upon the works, and the artillery of the defenders replied with such terrible precision that it was believed that half of the artillerymen of the enemy were put out of the fight. Of course, a detailed account of this battle cannot be given here. It may be briefly stated that during the night of the 18th, the rebel ram Albermarle succeeded in driving away the naval supports of the garrison, and took a position where her guns could be used with effect. During the day and night of the 19th, the forces of the enemy assumed more advantageous positions, and on the 20th made a simultaneous assault upon the entire Union line; and at the same time sent a column into the town. The guns of the 24th battery were served double-shotted with canister, "hurling death and disaster into the ranks of the enemy, and not until the rebels seized the muzzles of their guns did the cannoneers fail in their work."

For nearly two hours did the fight go on in the streets of Plymouth, the force surrendering only under stern necessity



MAIN STREET, PERRY, DURING CIVIL WAR TIMES

and in small detachments. The Union loss, notwithstanding their strong breastworks, was about 180. That of the rebels was stated in the Raleigh papers as 2200. When it is remembered that the garrison of 1900 men defended the town against a force of 12,000 rebels during four days, no suspicion of a lack of bravery will be entertained.

CHAPTER XIV

Sketch of the Battle of Plymouth and Surrender of the 24th N. Y. Battery—Horrors of the Prison at Andersonville, Ga., in which Perry Men were Sufferers.

In a sketch of the surrender of the 24th New York Battery at Plymouth, N. C., Mr. Merrill says:

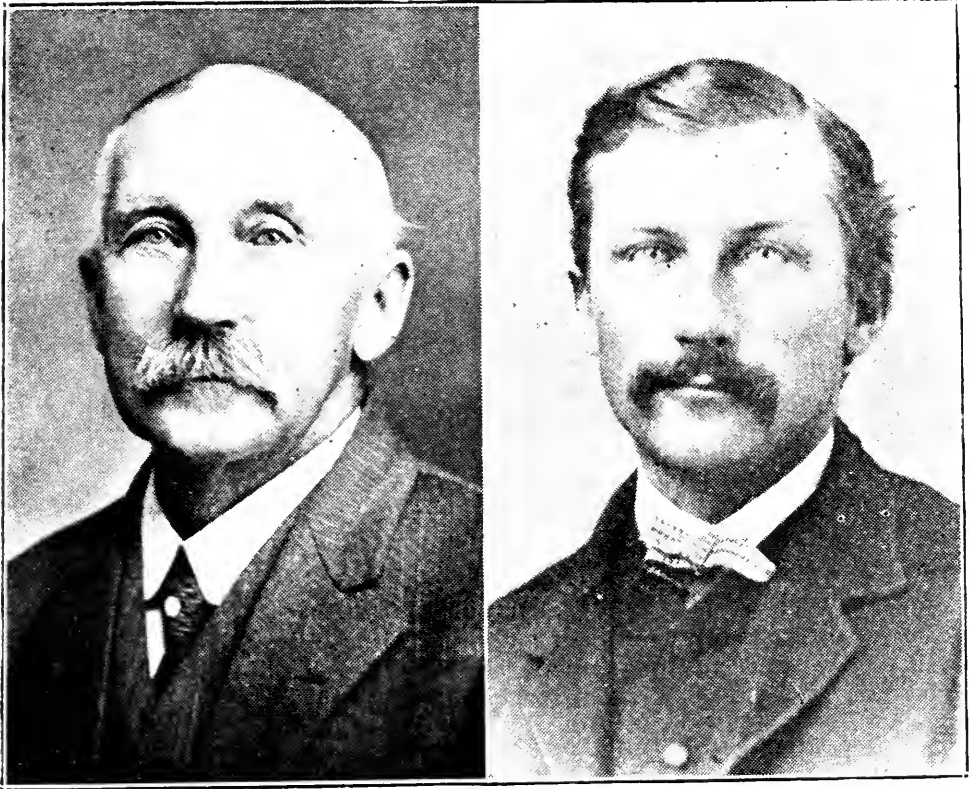
"All loyal citizens of the United States have a pride in our beautiful National banner, and ever is it a pleasure to their hearts to see it fluttering in the breeze. As children we learn to love it, honor and cherish it.

"Two epochs in my life have been strongly marked by the sight of this 'emblem of the free.' First when it was slowly lowered from the color staff of Fort Williams at Plymouth and the Confederate colors replaced it. Second, when for the first time in seven months I saw it waving from the masts of the vessels that had come to take us from our horrid prison pens. In experiencing the first it was a sad sight to see our pride, our boasted 'Stars and Stripes,' falling. We had fought for them, many of our comrades had died for them; but all was lost! Few of the many Union soldiers who stood around me had dry eyes as those colors fell.

"Stripped of our arms, mortified and sick at heart, we were penned by rebel guards and allowed to take a night's rest on the green sward. As the sun lowered we took a view of our once pleasant and happy camp. How desolate and dreary it was now! Proud in our own strength, we had been conquered. How much of hate, passion and revenge rankled in the bosoms of even those who would be Christians. Our comrades killed, the battle lost to us, our friends at home frightened, anxious and full of sorrow; our prospects for freedom from this degrading imprisonment, far in the dim, dim future. Cruel taunts were thrown in our faces, cruel acts were committed on every side of us. We tried to brave it out; we tried to comfort ourselves with the knowledge that we had fought a good fight;

we endeavored to believe that an immediate exchange of prisoners would take place; we consoled ourselves with the thought that none but cowards would taunt a fallen foe; yet heavy hearts and sad minds dwelt with us through that long night.

A few of the men of the Battery were made prisoners during the early part of the battle and were taken to the prisons at Florence and Charleston, from which some never returned.



1915

BENJAMIN H. HOLLISTER

1860

On the morning following the battle, those who had surrendered were ordered into line and marched 17 miles. The next morning they arrived at Hamilton. On the 25th of April they reached Tarboro. At this place the officers who were prisoners were separated from the soldiers and were taken to Richmond. The remaining prisoners were loaded on platform cars and sent

south through Charleston, Savannah and Macon to Andersonville, Ga. One of them has said:

"It was quite dark before we were allowed to disembark from the cars. The stockade was about half a mile from the depot. We were told that before entering the prison we would be organized into detachments. We were marched to a level plot of ground through which ran the stream that furnished the prison stockade with water, and after a guard had been placed about us we were permitted to furnish ourselves with water and appease our hunger with the bacon and hard tack that had been issued to us a couple of days before. That was the last of hard bread that I ever saw in the Confederacy, and here was my first introduction to Captain Wirz, commander of the Confederate prison. Camp fires had been started about the guard line, and suddenly, as if it had been the Devil himself, this fiend made his appearance through or near one of the fires. Short in stature, stooping figure, ill-shaped head, awkward limbs and movement, a deep-set, ugly eye, and a tongue reeking with profanity—such was Captain Wirz. A glance passed from comrade to comrade, telling better than the tongue of the fate we feared was in store for us. After much swearing and many threats to punish or kill, he succeeded in properly organizing us into detachments, and we were then informed that our barracks for the night would be the ground. Had we known then what was to be our future camping place, how quickly would our complaints have changed to words of thanks and thoughts of thanks—a practical example of the little we know in this world of the good or the bad that may be in store for us. While in our ignorance, we are merry when we should be sad, and are full of complaints when we should be happy. Fatigue makes a soft warm bed of the cold earth and changes a stick of wood into a downy pillow. We slept soundly; and what a blessing, it would seem, it would have been had the great majority of our fellows never waked from that sleep. Still, Providence—wise and good—saw fit for them to wake and to enter a trial of life that they had never anticipated. From observations in constant and intimate relations with many of them, I believe the long suffering and continual thought of the past and future did prepare them for a peaceful death, and, I hope, for a blessed

future. On the following morning we were ordered into line and marched into the prison stockade."

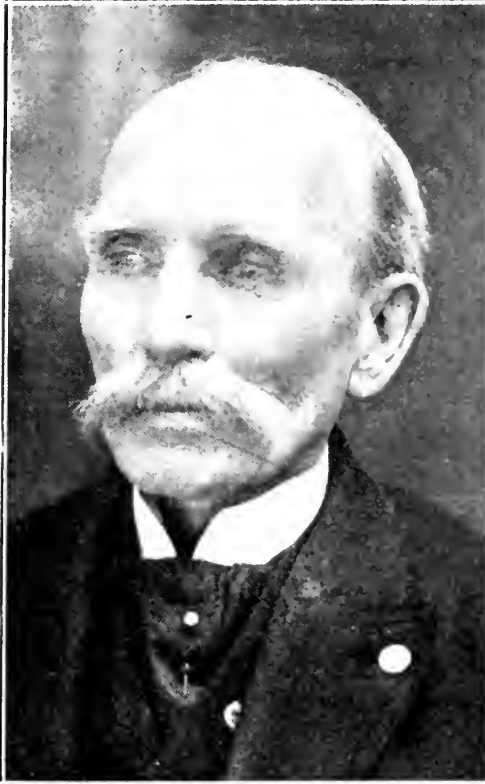
The horrors of Andersonville have been so generally described that a repetition is unnecessary here. Clara Barton has said:

"After this, whenever any man who has lain a prisoner within the stockade at Andersonville, would tell you of his sufferings—how he fainted, scorched, drenched, hungered, sickened; was scoffed, scourged, hunted and persecuted—though the tale be long and twice told, as you would have your own wrongs appreciated, your own woes pitied, your own cries for mercy heard, I charge you to listen and believe him. However definitely he may have spoken, know that he has not told you all. However strongly he may have outlined or deeply he may have colored his picture, know that the reality calls for a better light and a nearer view than your clouded, distant gaze will ever get. And your sympathies need not be confined to Andersonville while similar horrors glared in the sunny light and spotted the flower girt garden fields of that whole desperate, misguided and bewildered people. Wherever stretched the form of a Union prisoner, there rose the signal for cruelty and the cry of agony; and there, day by day grew the skeleton graves of the nameless dead."

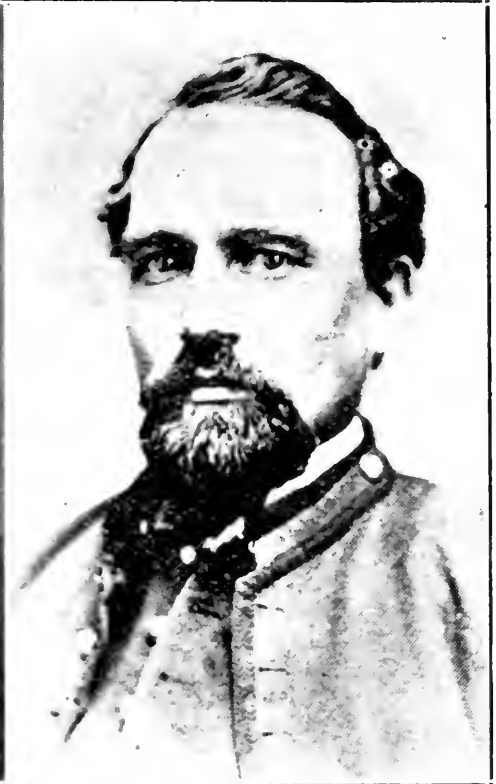
Of the men who enlisted in the Battery in Perry, a few had been discharged from the service through disability, etc. At the time of the battle of Plymouth, a few others were at their homes on furlough. Fifty-nine were captured; and of these, 46 died in Southern prisons. Those who survived came home broken in health from their experiences.

It was a cold dreary winter day when the remnant of the Battery returned to Perry. Familiar faces crowded about them scarcely able to recognize in those emaciated forms the healthy, robust young men they used to know. Anxious inquiries concerning the missing ones overpowered the warm welcome, and they felt that to be the bearers of such tidings

was indeed an unenviable lot. Of the survivors, only two are now residing in the town, viz: Benjamin H. Hollister and Albert Richards.



1915



1863

ALBERT RICHARDS

Upon the expiration of the term of service, the original members—except veterans—were mustered out and the veterans and recruits were transferred to the Third Regiment, New York Artillery, on March 8th, 1865. These were mustered out on July 7th of that year.

It has not been the intention of the writer to convey the impression that the 24th Battery comprised all or nearly all of the volunteers from Perry in the Civil War. Special mention

has been given it because, in reality, it was a local organization. As nearly as can be mentioned at this time about one hundred others enlisted in the Federal Army from Perry and vicinity in other organizations than the Battery, making a grand total of more than 180 from this, the little Perry of 1861-65. No reader of these lines can deny that on the part of these men there was a brave sacrifice to loyalty. Are we as patriotic to-day? Have we no gratitude for the services of the living and dead who volunteered from our town in the great conflict? Is there less of generosity? Let a practical answer to these questions be a strong endeavor to purchase and erect a suitable monument in some sightly position that will be a treasured and eloquent addition to the beauty of our town and an impressionable sign to all generations of our people of high duty faithfully performed and loyally and lovingly remembered.

Roster of Volunteers from Perry, 1861-1865

(This is probably not complete. It may include a few that were not actual residents of the town of Perry, but of this immediate locality. Names preceded by * are of those who died in the service.)

Name	Regiment
Abrams, Wm.	27th N.Y. Infantry
Alburty, Francis M.	24th N. Y. Battery
*Alburty, Wm.	24th N. Y. Battery
Alton, Sheldon	17th N. Y. Infantry
Andrews, Mark	24th N. Y. Battery
Andrews, Robert F.	Western Lt. Artillery
*Andrus, Lemuel	24th N. Y. Battery
Andrus, Merritt	4th U. S. Artillery
Arnold, M.	9th N. Y. Cavalry
*Atwood, George S.	24th N. Y. Battery
Austin, Amos W.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
*Austin, Charles	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Austin, Frank S.	17th N. Y. Infantry
Austin, Frederick	9th N. Y. Cavalry

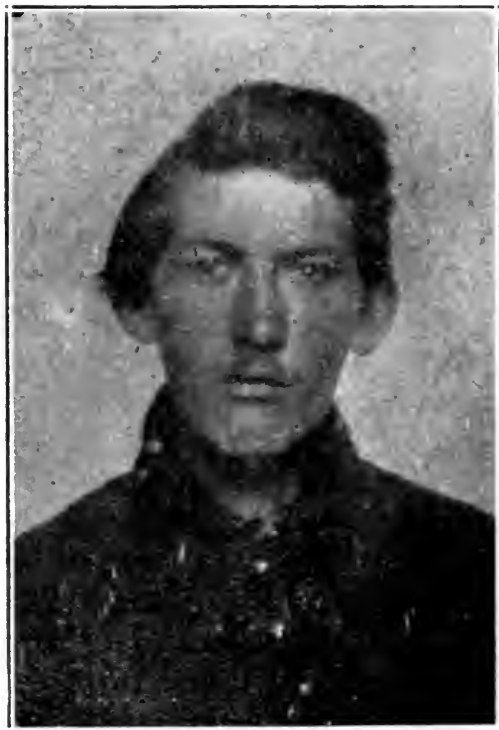
*Axtell, Abner	5th Penna. Cavalry
Ayers, Oscar	17th N. Y. Infantry
Babeock, Orso	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Baker, Thomas	89th N. Y. Vols.
Barber, John	9th N. Y. Cavalry
Barnes, Frank	9th N. Y. Cavalry
*Barnes, Roswell	24th N. Y. Battery
*Bartlett, Hartwell	24th N. Y. Battery
*Batchelder, B. Frank	24th N. Y. Battery
Beardsley, Alton	17th N. Y. Infantry
Beardsley, E. H.	17th N. Y. Infantry
Bentley, David	136th N. Y. Infantry
Birdsall, Hiram	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Bishop, I. G.	1st N. Y. Mounted Rifles
Boies, E.	24th N. Y. Battery
Bolton, Parris	147th N. Y. Infantry
Booth, Harrison	Regt. Unknown
Borden, Adelbert	104th N. Y. Infantry
Borden, Albert	104th N. Y. Infantry
Boughton, Arthur	89th N. Y. Volunteers
*Boughton, Myron	27th Wisconsin Volunteers
*Brayton, Rufus	24th N. Y. Battery
*Briggs, George	104th N. Y. Infantry
*Briggs, Wm.	104th N. Y. Infantry
*Brooks, John	24th N. Y. Battery
Broughton, Floyd	13th N. Y. Infantry
Buck, Robert	24th N. Y. Battery
Bullard, R. F.	136th N. Y. Infantry
Burden, Adelbert	2nd N. Y. Mounted Rifles
Burden, Albert	2nd N. Y. Mounted Rifles
*Button, James	24th N. Y. Battery
Buttre, C. W.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Cady, George E.	27th N. Y. Volunteers
Calkins, Francis A.	2nd N. Y. Mtd. Rifles
*Calkins, James	24th N. Y. Battery
Calkins, Melatiah	136th N. Y. Volunteers
*Calteaux, Paul	24th N. Y. Battery
Calvin, Andrew	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Camp, E. B.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Camp, Wm. S.	24th N. Y. Battery

*Carnahan, Charles	24th N. Y. Battery
Carnahan, Wm.	24th N. Y. Battery
Chapin, Abner B.	Quartermaster's Dept.
Chapin, Willard J.	Surgeon
Chapman, John	Regt. Unknown
Childs, Lucius	Rgt. Unknown
*Childs, Reuben	33rd N. Y. Volunteers
Clark, C. A.	24th N. Y. Battery
Cofield, Thomas	8th N. Y. Heavy Artillery
Cole, Parker	89th N. Y. Infantry
*Comstock, A. W.	24th N. Y. Battery
Crocker, Chas. H.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Crocker, Emory F.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Crooker, Wm. W. (Capt.)	24th N. Y. Battery
Cronkrite, Joel	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Curtis, Lorenzo	Regiment unknown
Dolbeer, Charles H.	24th N. Y. Battery
Dunn, John	89th N. Y. Volunteers
Duryea, George	24th N. Y. Battery
Duryea, Joseph	24th N. Y. Battery
Fanning, Edwin	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Fardin, Francis	8th N. Y. Heavy Art.
Ferguson, Daniel	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Ferguson, A. T.	24th N. Y. Battery
Ferrin, J. T.	24th N. Y. Battery
*Filbin, John	24th N. Y. Battery
*Fitch, Charles W.	24th N. Y. Battery
Fitch, Wm.	Regt. Unknown
*Fitzgerald, Thomas	24th N. Y. Battery
Flint, J. Nelson	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Foskett, Milton	136th N. Y. Vols.
Foskett, Wesley	9th N. Y. Cavalry
Foskett, Winslow	9th N. Y. Cavalry
Francis, J. P.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Frayser, Andrew	8th N. Y. Heavy Art.
*French, Myron	136th N. Y. Infantry
Frost, Enos B.	11th Regt. Heavy Art.
*Galusha, Jonas E.	24th N. Y. Battery
Gardner, Albert	9th N. Y. Cavalry
Gardner, Avery	89th N. Y. Infantry

Gardner, Simeon	9th N. Y. Cavalry
*Grant, Murray	24th N. Y. Battery
Gregg, Wm.	4th N. Y. Artillery
*Griffith, Albert	24th N. Y. Battery
*Griffith, Charles R.	24th N. Y. Battery
*Griffith, Willis	27th N. Y. Infantry
Griggs, Wm. Jr.	8th N. Y. Vols.
Grisewood, Thomas	24th N. Y. Battery
Hale, N.	Regiment unknown
Hanna, Nicholas	104th N. Y. Vols.
Hardens, ———	4th Artillery
*Hare, John	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Haskins, Henry	86th N. Y. Vol.
Hastings, Geo. S. (Lieut.)	24th N. Y. Battery
*Hathaway, Charles	24th N. Y. Battery
*Hershey, Andrew H.	Asst. Surgeon, Navy
Higgins, Frank	1st N. Y. Mtd. Rifles
Hildum, James	8th N. Y. Heavy Art.
Hill, Wm.	89th N. Y. Infantry
Hollenbeck, Henry	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Hollenbeck, Wallace	9th N. Y. Cavalry
Hollister, Benj. H.	24th N. Y. Battery
Homan, Charles H.	24th N. Y. Battery
*Horsford, Wm. F.	24th N. Y. Battery
Humphrey, E. D.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
*Hunt, Charles H.	27th N. Y. Infantry
*Hunt, George S.	Regt. Unknown
*Hunt, Merritt	Regt. Unknown
Hurlburt, E. T. M.	24th N. Y. Battery
Jeffres, C. (Capt.)	36th N. Y. Vols.
*Johnson, George B.	24th N. Y. Battery
Jones, Samuel	89th N. Y. Vols.
Keeney, Anson	89th N. Y. Vols.
*Keeney, George W.	24th N. Y. Battery
Keeton, John	1st N. Y. Mtd. Rifles
*Lacy, James	1st N. Y. Mtd. Rifles
Lapham, Daniel	9th N. Y. Cavalry
Lapham, Horace	24th N. Y. Battery
*Lapham, L. H.	24th N. Y. Battery
Law, Charles O.	1st N. Y. Dragoons

*Lee, Abram	24th N. Y. Battery
Lee, Jay E. (Capt.)	24th N. Y. Battery
*Lent, Abram	24th N. Y. Battery
*Mahannay, Barton	31st N. Y. Vols.
Mahannay, Wm.	31st N. Y. Vols.
Marvin, Connor	24th N. Y. Battery
Marvin, Patrick	24th N. Y. Battery
*Marean, C. A.	24th N. Y. Battery
Mateson, Wm. H.	4th Artillery
Matteson, Henry	8th N. Y. Heavy Art.
*Meade, G.	24th N. Y. Battery
*McCrink, James	24th N. Y. Battery
*McCrink, John	24th N. Y. Battery
McGuire, John	1st N. Y. Dragoons
*McNinch, ———	24th N. Y. Battery
Merrill, J. W.	24th N. Y. Battery
Metzger, Michael	17th N. Y. Infantry
*Miner, J. Gile	24th N. Y. Battery
Mcigan, Elias	136th N. Y. Vols.
Newcomb, L.	24th N. Y. Battery
*Newton, R. J.	24th N. Y. Battery
Noonen, Wm.	136th N. Y. Vols.
Page, Harry C.	24th N. Y. Battery
*Parkins, John	1st N. Y. Dragoons
*Perkins, J. W.	24th N. Y. Battery
Pinney, Frank H.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Pettes, Fred W. (Capt.)	1st N. Y. Cavalry
*Pettibone, Levi	89th N. Y. Vols.
*Piper, A.	24th N. Y. Battery
*Piper, George W.	24th N. Y. Battery
Post, J. Mort. (Capt.)	3rd N. Y. Cavalry
Post, Lucius H. (Lieut.)	17th N. Y. Infantry
Post, Thomas E.	3rd N. Y. Artillery
*Pratt, Philander	24th N. Y. Battery
Quinn, John	Regt. Unknown
Rathbone, Sydney S.	24th N. Y. Battery
*Rawson, Porter D.	24th N. Y. Battery
Reynolds, Theodore	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Reynolds, Wm.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Richards, Albert	24th N. Y. Battery

Richards, Elias	24th N. Y. Battery
*Richardson, Orlando	24th N. Y. Battery
Robinson, Adolphus	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Robinson, John P. (Col.)	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Robinson, Zeb C.	3rd N. Y. Cavalry
*Rood, James	Regt. Unknown
*Rood, LeGrande D.	24th N. Y. Battery



*Safford, Pembroke J.
24th N. Y. Battery

Salisbury, M. S.	21st N. Y. Vols.
*Senter, Lucius	89th N. Y. Vols.
Seeley, Wm.	Regiment unknown
Seymour, Jared	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Sherman, Seymour	30th N. Y. Vols.
*Shirley, Phares	24th N. Y. Battery
Simmons, A. S. (2nd Lieut.)	89th N. Y. Vols

*Simmons, James B. B.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
*Simmons, Phineas A.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
*Smith, Mason C. Jr.	24th N. Y. Battery
Smith, Edward	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Smith, James	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Smith, Jay	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Smith, Nicholas	17th N. Y. Infantry
Sterling, Charles H.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Stoddard, Samuel	24th N. Y. Battery
Stover, George	9th N. Y. Cavalry
Strong, Lorenzo	9th N. Y. Cavalry
Summy, David	27th N. Y. Infantry
Sullivan, Patrick	136th N. Y. Vols.
Summy, Mort	Musician
Sweet, Charles	Musician
Tadder, David	104th N. Y. Infantry
Tallman, Benj. H.	27th N. Y. Infantry
Taylor, Martin	9th N. Y. Cavalry
Thompson, Benj.	27th N. Y. Infantry
*Tilton, Henry	24th N. Y. Battery
*Welch, Edward	24th N. Y. Battery
Welch, Peter	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Weller, J. H.	24th N. Y. Battery
Westbrook, George	104th N. Y. Infantry
Westbrook, John	104th N. Y. Infantry
Westbrook, Nehemiah	27th N. Y. Infantry
Westlake, Charles G.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
*Williams, Oliver	24th N. Y. Battery
Williamson, James	8th N. Y. Heavy Artillery
Wilson, John A.	1st N. Y. Dragoons
Witter, Volney	9th N. Y. Cavalry
Wolcott, Orson	104th N. Y. Infantry
*Wood, Emmett	24th N. Y. Battery
Young, Harry, (colored)	31st N. Y. Vols.

CHAPTER XV

The Press of Perry, Representing Religious and Anti-Slavery as Well as Local Interests—Cemeteries—Banking Institutions and Their Founders.

The "Genesee Recorder" was established in 1834 and was continued for two years. George M. Schipper was the publisher. As this was the first newspaper to be published in the Town of Perry, we feel that a brief description would be appropriate.

A copy of the "Genesee Recorder," dated August 8th, 1834, shows a sheet which is a little more than half the size of the present local papers and contains five columns to the page. This copy is the first number of the first volume, and the first line under the head says: "Devoted to News, Politics, Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, Science, Literature, Morality and Amusement, by G. M. Schipper." Really, a very extensive field of labor for a sheet of its size. The price of the paper was \$2.00 a year in advance; \$2.50 if not paid within six months; or \$3.00 if delayed until the expiration of the year. The first page of this sheet is filled with miscellaneous reading; the fourth page has three columns of political matter, mainly selected articles pitching into Gen. Jackson, and two columns of agricultural reading. The second page is filled with political articles from the Albany Journal and foreign news. The third page contains the prospectus of the "Genesee Recorder" and an article of about a column explaining its political purposes. The only matter in the paper than can be regarded as "locals" is a notice of the marriage of Mr. Luther A. Conklin and Miss Mary Ann Howard of Castile, and the death of Miss Mary Smith of this village. There is about half a column of village advertisements, from which one learned that Armitage &

Faulkner were keeping a general store and dealt in dry goods, groceries, hardware, wines and liquors, maple syrup, and a little of everything handy to have in the house. Sherman & Skidmore conducted the Perry Hotel; J. King kept a boot and shoe store; and A. Bunnell shod horses—a very sorry show of business ads when compared with those of the present day.

The “American Citizen” was established in Warsaw in 1836 by J. A. Hadley. After one year it was purchased by Josiah Andrews and moved to Perry, where it was published by Messrs. Mitchell and Lewis. This paper was the official organ of the Genesee County Anti-Slavery Society. Its subscription rate was \$2.50 a year in advance. Mr. Lewis soon dropped out of the firm and was succeeded by Ansel Warren. In January, 1841, the publication was removed to Rochester.

The “Register,” a campaign paper, was published in Perry for one or two years, beginning Jan. 1st, 1840. Isaac N. Stoddard and John H. Bailey were the proprietors.

The “Perry Democrat,” published by Peter Lawrence, began its existence on Jan. 1st, 1841. Mr. Lawrence conducted the paper until 1848, at which time it was sold to C. C. Britt, who continued it until 1853.

The “Watch Tower,” a Baptist publication, was printed at the office of The American Citizen during 1839; Ansel Warren, editor.

The “Ariel,” another religious paper, noted for its sarcasm and caustic comment on local affairs, was published in Perry by “An Association of Nice Young Men, semi-occasionally,” during the year 1841.

The “Western New Yorker” was established in Perry in January, 1841, by J. H. Bailey. A few months later it was sold to Messrs. Barlow & Woodward, who moved it to Warsaw, where it is still being published.

The "Countryman," a Liberal Party publication, was established in Perry in 1843 by N. S. Woodward. Soon afterward it was purchased by Daniel S. Curtis, who changed its name to "The Impartial Countryman" and continued it until August, 1846, when it passed into the hands of Ansel Warren, who again changed its name to "The Free Citizen" and issued the paper until August, 1847.

The "Sunday School Visitor" was published monthly at the office of The Countryman by D. S. Curtis. It was begun in May, 1844.

The "Christian Investigator" was published at the office of The Free Citizen for one year and was edited by Wm. Goodell.

The "Wyoming Advertiser" was published in Perry during one year by Horace Wileox, beginning Dec. 22d, 1853.

The "Wyoming Times" was begun in Perry in May, 1855, by T. S. Gillett. The office was destroyed by fire in 1856, but the paper's publication was resumed soon afterward. It was discontinued, however, in 1863. During the last two years of its existence it was published by Benjamin F. Page.

The "Silver Lake Sun" was established in Perry on Dec. 1st, 1865, by George A. Sanders. As the town had been without a paper for more than two years, it was received with great favor by the citizens. The Sun was published by Mr. Sanders until 1872, at which time it passed into the hands of J. S. Van-Alstyne, who had control of it for a short time, after which it reverted to Mr. Sanders, who continued it until 1877.

The "Perry Star" was published here for a short time, beginning in March, 1874, by George A. Sanders.

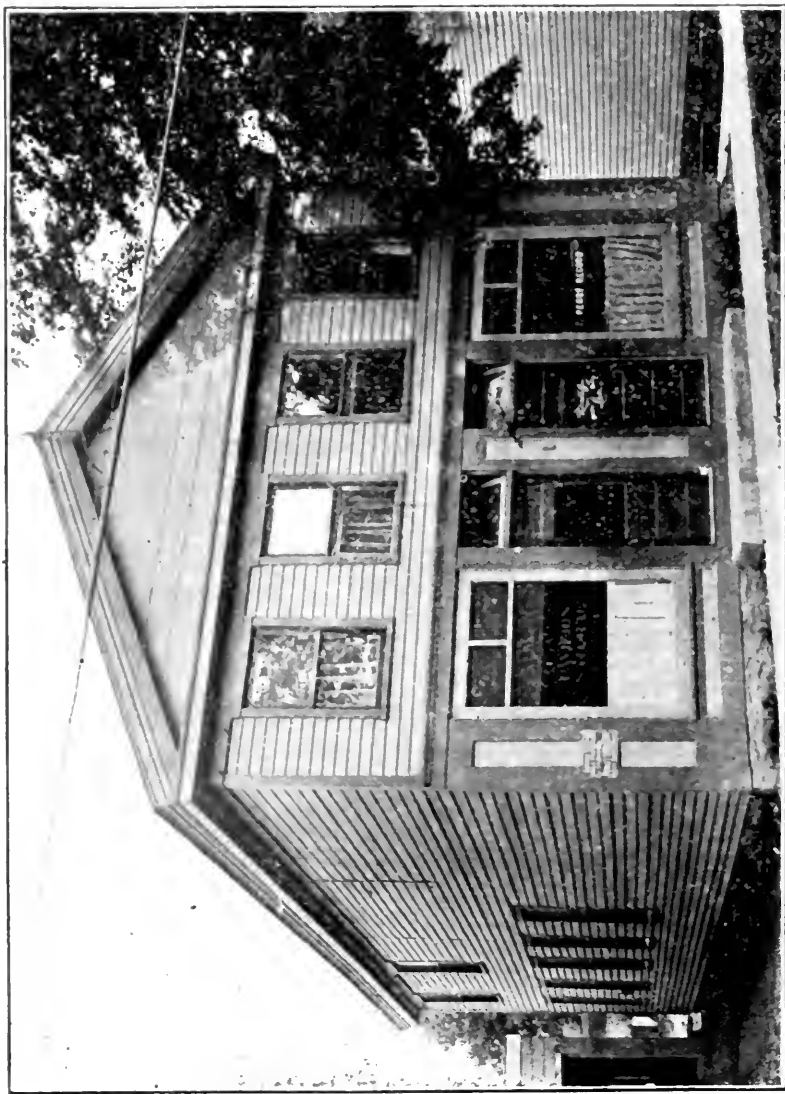
The "Wyoming County Herald" was established in June, 1877, by Lewis E. Chapin, who came to Perry from Livonia. He purchased the business and printing material of Mr. Sand-

ers. In 1878 Mr. Chapin changed the name of the paper to The Herald. George C. King purchased the business on July 1st, 1881. On May 1st, 1892, Frank B. Smith bought out Mr. King, and the following year purchased the Perry Weekly News of Asa Countryman, consolidating the two papers under the name of the Perry Herald and News. Mr. Smith later changed the name to The Perry Herald and continued its publication until Sept. 1st, 1912, when he sold the business to Mr. Guy Comfort, its present owner and publisher. During the last year of Mr. Smith's ownership the paper was issued semi-weekly as the Perry Semi-Weekly Herald.

During the proprietorship of The Herald by Lewis E. Chapin a daily edition was printed for a few weeks each Summer, while the Silver Lake Temperance Assembly was in session. At that time Mead & Stearns were in charge of the temperance assembly, which drew large crowds to the lake. It was first conducted on the then Saxton grounds in a large enclosure resembling a cheese box in appearance. After a few seasons that proved too small to accommodate the crowds and they removed to the present Pioneer grounds, where a covered auditorium was erected, surrounded during the season by many campers in tents and cottages. A daily was also published one year by the Perry Press, but neither was a financial success.

Two years, during the summer season of Silver Lake Chautauqua Assembly, when that institution was in its most flourishing condition, Frank B. Smith, then editor of the Perry Herald and News, published a daily newspaper with a measure of success.

The "Perry Press," published by E. D. Deming of the Attica News, was established here in 1883, the paper being issued for some time from the Attica News office. Later, Mr. Deming brought printing machinery here and opened a local office in



PERRY RECORD OFFICE BUILDING.

One of the oldest buildings in the Village of Perry. Erected some time between 1820 and 1830. Stood for many years on the corner of Main and Lake streets. Removed to its present location on the east side of Main street and remodeled in May, 1902. Its foundations are still in perfect condition.

charge of E. C. Tanger. It was not a financial success and was discontinued after publication less than two years.

The "Perry Weekly News" was established on Sept. 9th, 1885, by John F. Gates, a retired Universalist minister, who purchased the material of the defunct Nunda Herald and removed it to this place. In 1888 he took his foreman, C. G. Clarke, into partnership, under the firm name of Gates & Clarke, which continued until May, 1889, when Mr. Clarke retired and removed to Akron, N. Y. Mr. Gates continued the business until failing health compelled his retirement and it was sold in 1892 to Rev. Asa Countryman, who sold it the following year to Frank B. Smith, who consolidated it with the Perry Herald.

The "Perry Record" was established on Jan. 24th, 1894, by C. G. Clarke, who returned from Akron, N. Y., to his old home. That was the year generally known as the "Cleveland panic" time, when free soup houses were opened in many cities to feed thousands who were in destitute circumstances, when wheat was selling for 50 cents a bushel, and when "Coxey's Army" was organized by hundreds of unemployed men who marched to Washington to demand that the Government should take action to provide them with work. Twenty years, later, Carl Read Clarke, eldest son of the proprietor, became associated in the management of the business under the firm name of C. G. Clarke & Son, the present publishers.

CEMETERIES

About the year 1819, Ebenezer, Selden and Dr. Otis Higgins purchased a portion of Lot No. 29 from Rev. Wm. Wiles, which included the old cemetery from which a few bodies were recently removed in excavating for the new Public Library, and presented it to the village to be used as a cemetery. At the time of its presentation there were several graves there. It originally extended across Main street and included a strip of ground on the opposite side, between the Presbyterian and Baptist churches. A number of the pioneers of Perry were buried in this plot. In 1833 the ground had become nearly filled with graves, and in that year a voluntary association was formed and plans were made for a new cemetery. On October 3d of that year, the organization, through its trustees—Elnathan Lacy, Wm. Dolbeer and Willard Chapin—purchased one and three-fourths acres of land from Calvin P. Bailey and Samuel Hatch. There was one grave in this plot prior to its sale to the association, Elisha Barnes having been buried there on July 28th, 1833. In 1857 additional land was purchased through the association's representative, Wm. Dolbeer. A later association, which took over the cemetery property, was formed in 1876 with David Andrus, G. B. Olin, Mrs. Ann Keeney, Mrs. R. T. Tuttle, Mrs. C. P. Andrus and E. G. Matthews as incorporators. This was known as "The Hope Cemetery Association." In 1877 another addition was made, and the whole includes about five acres. In December, 1908, the lots in Hope Cemetery being nearly all sold, the Association purchased from Lewis Crane and H. D. Tinkham some 23 acres of land lying on the east bank of Silver Lake outlet, some little distance below the Perry Knitting Mills and extending back to the lower end of Handley street. The services of a landscape gardner were secured and the grounds were made attractive by following his suggestions so far as possible. This plot is known as "Hope Cemetery An-

nex." The first burial in the new plot was the body of John Strickland, a former business man of the village. The addition was purchased by the Association's representatives, W. P. Andrus and W. L. Chapin.

About the year 1824 the cemetery at West Perry was laid out by a voluntary association, of which Dan Dickerson, Arad Stillwell and Nathaniel Otis were elected trustees. One acre of land was purchased from Charles Jewett, which was enclosed and divided into lots. For many years it was neglected and unkempt, but in 1914 a spirit of pride prompted a new organization by residents of West Perry and under the leadership of A. C. Stowell, the grounds were improved and beautified, and the slightly location on an eminence overlooking Silver Lake is well kept and a credit to those who took the matter in charge.

The first burial in the cemetery at Perry Center was the body of Charles, son of Peter and Abigail Atwood, who died on Nov. 29th, 1813. A few other burials were made in this cemetery prior to the organization of an association. The original association at the Center was organized in 1818 with Samuel Howard, Orrin Sheldon and Phicol M. Ward as trustees. These men purchased half an acre of Lemuel Blackmer for \$40, and the plot has since been enlarged considerably. The original lots were one square rod in dimension and sold for 50 cents each. Improvements were made from time to time by voluntary contributions. A later association was formed in October, 1885, with B. A. Nevins, F. C. Benedict, C. C. Watrous, Mrs. Andrew Sheldon, Mrs. C. W. Butler and Mrs. Sarah Alton as trustees. This was known as "The Prospect Hill Cemetery Association." Soon after the reorganization was effected, the Association, through its trustees, purchased adjoining land from Mrs. Alton. This is known as "The Phillips Addition."

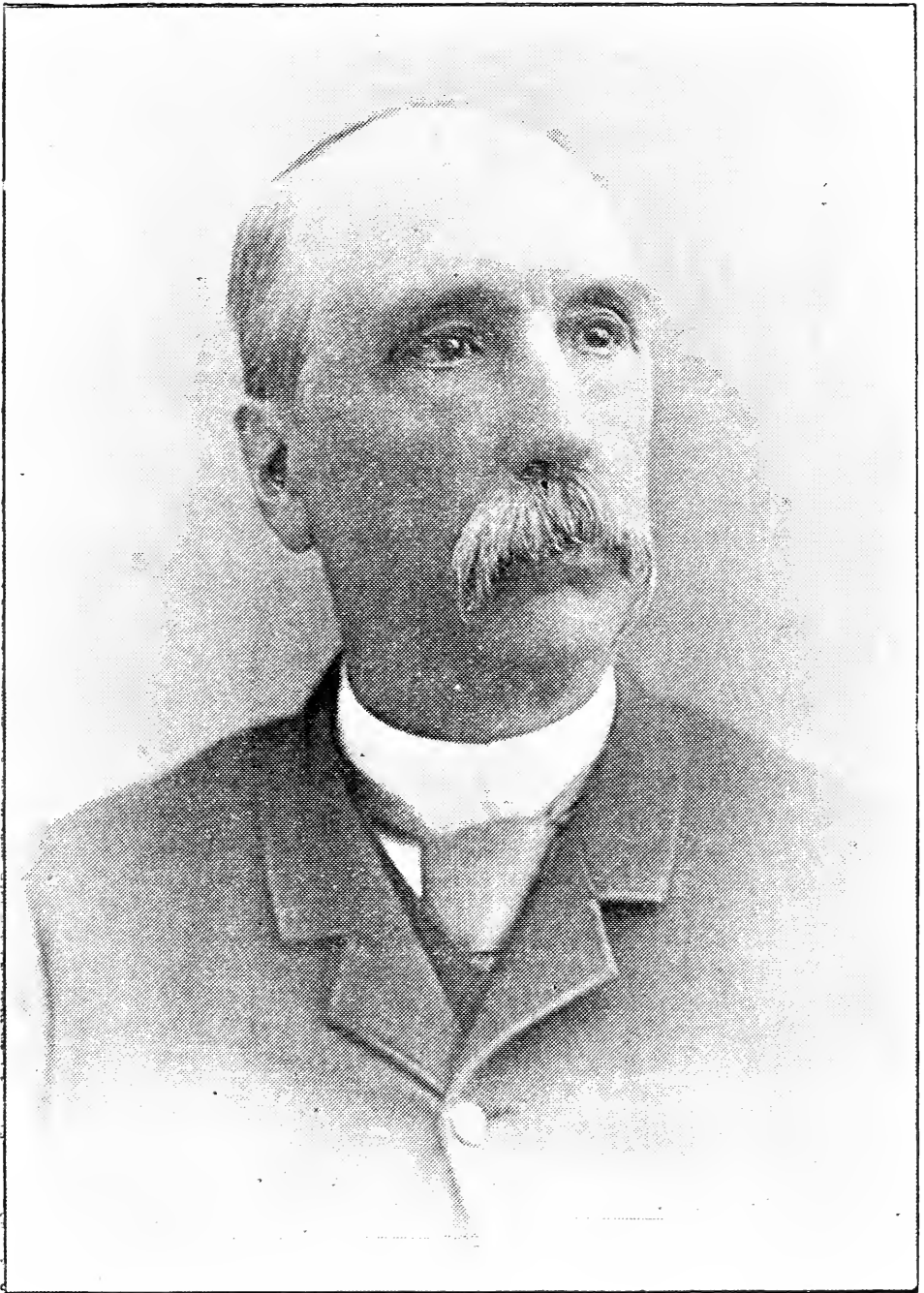
In the Fall of 1885, two and one-half acres of land were purchased by St. Joseph's (Catholic) Church Society of the

late J. W. Chamberlain, on the west side of the road leading to Silver Lake from Macomber's corners, about three-quarters of a mile from the village. The cemetery occupies an enclosure on a hill a short distance north of the lake.

BANKING INSTITUTIONS

During many years after the settlement of the town, what little banking business was necessary was done at Canandaigua, and later at Geneseo and Batavia, especially at the Bank of Genesee at Batavia. The first banking institution in Perry, of which the writer has any record, was the Silver Lake Bank of Genesee, and we cannot state positively whether the business ever opened for the transaction of business, or not. The only documents that we have been able to find with reference to the matter is a certified copy of the articles of association of the Silver Lake Bank of Genesee, which appears to have been filed on Dec. 31st, 1838, by Archibald Campbell, Deputy Secretary of State. The articles of association were executed by Rufus H. Smith, Mosely Stoddard, Calvin P. Bailey, Samuel Hatch and Josiah Andrews, all of them residents of Perry, Genesee County, who subscribed for 200 shares each. The shares had a par value of \$100. If the institution ever opened for business, it was out of existence before the organization of the Banking Department, which was first organized by statute in the year 1851.

The First National Bank, formerly known as "Smith's Bank," was organized in 1855 as a State Bank, with a capital of \$50,000, by Rufus H. Smith, president; and Anson D. Smith, his son, cashier. Upon the death of R. H. Smith in 1858, A. D. Smith became president, and Charles W. Hendee, cashier. In 1862 Henry N. Page became cashier. A. D. Smith died in 1866, and his widow became sole proprietor of the bank. Mr. Henry N. Page then assumed entire charge of its business affairs. In



Born 1823

HENRY N. PAGE

Died 1894

1865, after the passage of the National Banking Act, which placed a tax of 10 per cent. on the currency of all state banks, the State charter was surrendered and the business was continued under the same title as a private bank until March 2d, 1891, at which time it was reorganized, a charter taken out, and it became The First National Bank of Perry, with the following named officers: President, Henry N. Page; Vice-President, Frank H. Wyckoff; Cashier, W. D. Page; Assistant Cashier, George K. Page. The Board of Directors included, in addition to the above named gentlemen, Willis H. Tuttle of Canandaigua.

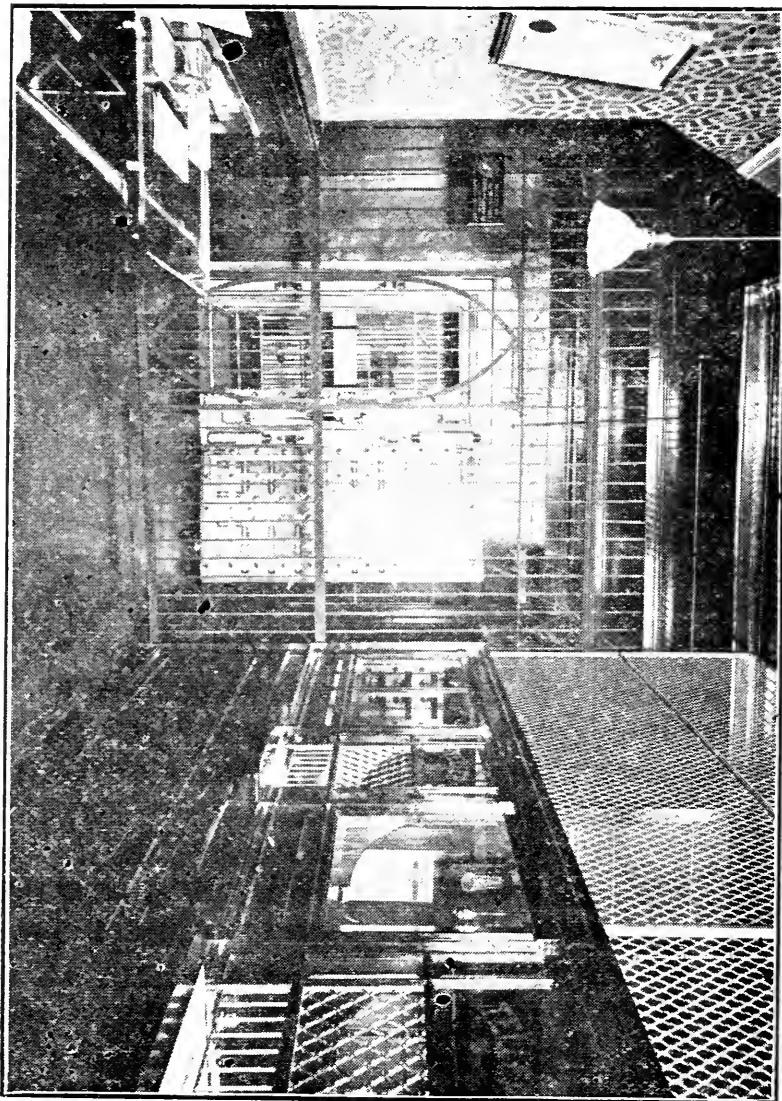


Boyhood portrait of Willis H. Tuttle of Perry, with his favorite horse and a friend of his youth, Walter Gillespie of Perry.

The original bank building was erected by Judge Smith, and the old vault was then considered burglar proof, no inside safe being used. Later on, a Herring safe was added, which was afterward wrecked by a gang of professional burglars,

under the leadership of the notorious Ned Lyon, although no funds were secured by them. Two other attempts had been made, but in neither was access gained to the vault. In the

INTERIOR OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK



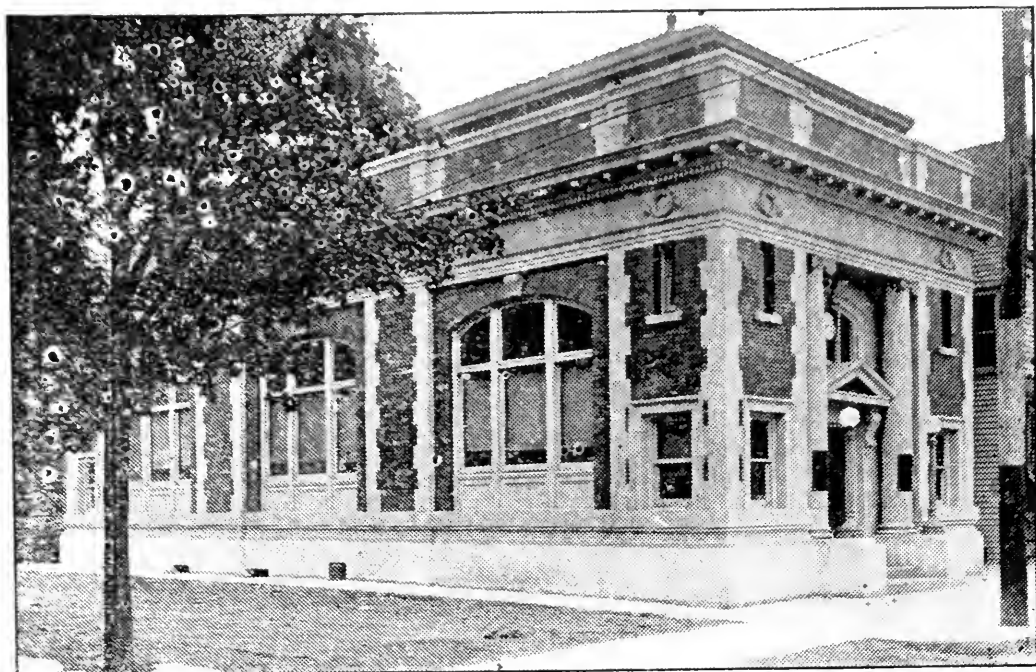
great fire of 1891, part of the cornice was burned from the old building, and in the following year the store now occupied by

Baker & Roberts' Pharmacy was built, and a second story was added to the bank building, making the present block as it now stands.

Owing to the increase in business and the demand for better facilities, the bank has installed a Herring-Hall-Marvin vault and safe deposit box equipment. This is of the latest improved fire-and-burglar-proof construction. Installing the vault necessitated the building of a new directors' room at the rear. The present officers are: W. D. Page, President; George K. Page, Vice-President and Cashier.

THE CITIZENS BANK OF PERRY, N. Y.

This institution was organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of New York on March 8th, 1888, with a capi-



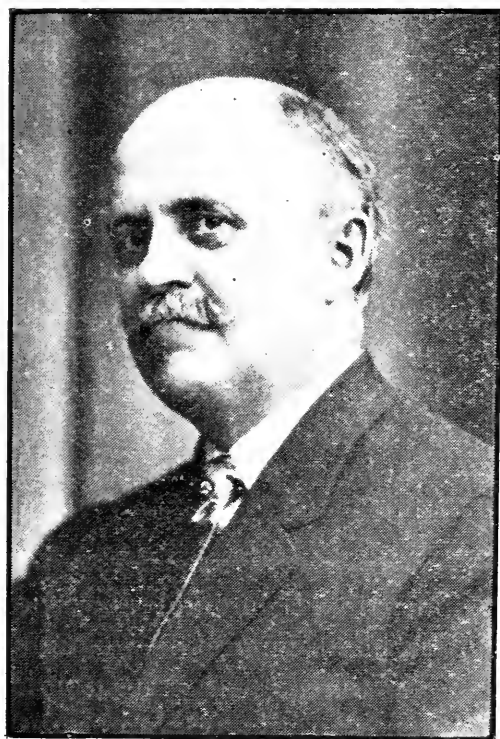
THE CITIZENS BANK OF PERRY, N. Y.

tal of \$35,000 and the following named citizens as stockholders: Milo H. Olin, George Tomlinson, Clarence M. Smith, Lewis A. Macomber, Wm. H. Hawley, Sr., Robert R. Dow, P. E. Bolton, Parris Olin, George W. Grieve, Mary J. Olin, M. S. Nobles, Byron A. Nevins, George L. Cone, S. A. Hatch, John S. Garrison.

The organization of the institution by local residents was prompted by the news learned of the proposed location of a new bank in Perry by outsiders who believed that the town offered a field for two banking institutions. Clarence M. Smith



LEWIS A. MACOMBER



GEORGE M. TRABER

and the late Milo H. Olin were prime movers in the organization, which was effected promptly after the news above referred to was learned, and the parties who contemplated opening a bank here organized a banking institution in the Village of

Avon, Livingston County. The store in the Olin Block, on the corner of Lake and Main streets, was secured as a place of business and was used as such until 1909, when their present splendid quarters were completed and ready for occupancy. The new bank building is one of the finest of its kind in the State, outside of the large cities, and cost with its equipment, about \$36,000.

A short time after its incorporation as a State Bank, the capital stock was increased to \$50,000. In its 27 years of existence, the bank had but 15 directors, viz: M. H. Olin, L. A. Macomber, George L. Cone, George Tomlinson, B. A. Nevins, R. R. Dow, J. C. Windsor, J. S. Garrison, Wm. W. Grieve, George W. Grieve, George M. Traber, Will W. Grieve, Walter T. Olin, C. M. Smith and J. N. Wyckoff. M. H. Olin served as president of the bank until his death in 1907, when he was succeeded by Lewis A. Macomber. Upon the death of Mr. Macomber in 1915, George M. Traber was elected president. In its history the bank has had but one cashier, Clarence M. Smith, who continues to serve in that capacity, and to whom a considerable measure of credit is due for the growth of the bank's business. Lloyd P. Benedict has served the bank as assistant cashier for a period of 20 years. The present stockholders are: Clara M. Bolton, M. H. Baker, R. H. Cone, J. S. Garrison, J. F. Grieve, Will W. Grieve, Wm. W. Grieve, George W. Grieve, Carrie D. Green, estate of Wm. H. Hawley, Jr., S. A. Hatch, Celia A. Lewis, estate of L. A. Macomber, Byron A. Nevins, Mary J. Olin, Walter T. Olin, estate of H. N. Parker, J. M. Rood, Emma W. Slack, Abram Reese, C. M. Smith, L. P. Benedict, Tomlinson & Son, George M. Traber, Mary E. Wyckoff, James N. Wyckoff.

CHAPTER XVI

Highways, Bridges, Etc.—Maps Showing Growth of Village Since Early Days—Expenditures for Macadamizing Village Streets and Highways.

One of the first—if not the first—roads opened through the present Town of Perry was the Geneseo, or “Big Tree Road,” which led from Geneseo to Buffalo and crossed this town near the middle. This road became the main avenue west. The Allegany Road, which intersected the Geneseo Road near Moscow and led to Olean, crossed the southeast end of the town.

The Allegany Road was laid out in 1806, was six rods wide and became the main road south. The original Allegany Road veered several rods west beginning at a point about a mile south of the village and evidently connected with the present Leicester street, known in early days as the “Leicester Road.” The road was altered to its present position about the year 1816 by Ziba Hurd and two others, who were the road commissioners of Perry at that time.

The old “Buffalo Road,” as it was called, was the first east and west road. This was opened across the north part of the town at an early period, but was not worked and never became a thoroughfare, owing to the impractical ravines which it crossed.

A road was laid out in 1812 or 1813 from Perry Village north to the villages of Perry Center, LaGrange, Covington Center and Pavilion, to LeRoy. It was over these four roads that the first settlers came into the town and the regions in their vicinity were first settled.

The writer has found it impossible to ascertain the exact dates when the early village streets were laid out. However, Leicester, Water, Short, Center, Lake and Main streets are probably the oldest of the village streets. Main street was laid out in 1813 and, at the time of its formation, intersected on the south end a road which at that period ran from the upper dam southeast.

Main street, occupies its original position, or nearly so, but its grading has been materially changed. In the early days, from the Presbyterian Church down toward the outlet, it was quite steep, but much filling was done from time to time to reduce the grade. In the rear of the First National Bank block was a pond of water, sonorous with the music of frogs in the evenings of the early days. At that time, beginning at the present junction of Main and Gardeau streets, Main street veered a few feet further to the east until at St. Helena street it was about two rods east of its present location. The following excerpts are taken from an article written for the Silver Lake Sun by the late John Stainton in 1870. Among other interesting facts concerning the Town of Perry of the period of 1818-20, he said:

“The primitive village consisted of two stores in framed buildings—Bailey & Hatch’s, corner of Main and Covington streets, and Benjamin Gardner’s at his residence, above the mill pond (near the present depot). The latter might perhaps be called the principal store; but, you ask, “Why up there out of the way?” We answer, there was no “way” in reality. The roads were laid out, but not worked; nor were village lots fenced in. You might go from the outlet on Main street to the Academy site on an air line and find no obstacle, except an army of stumps; so the Gardner store was not so inaccessible as might appear. Mr. Gardner was postmaster at that time, and his store was a general center of operations.”

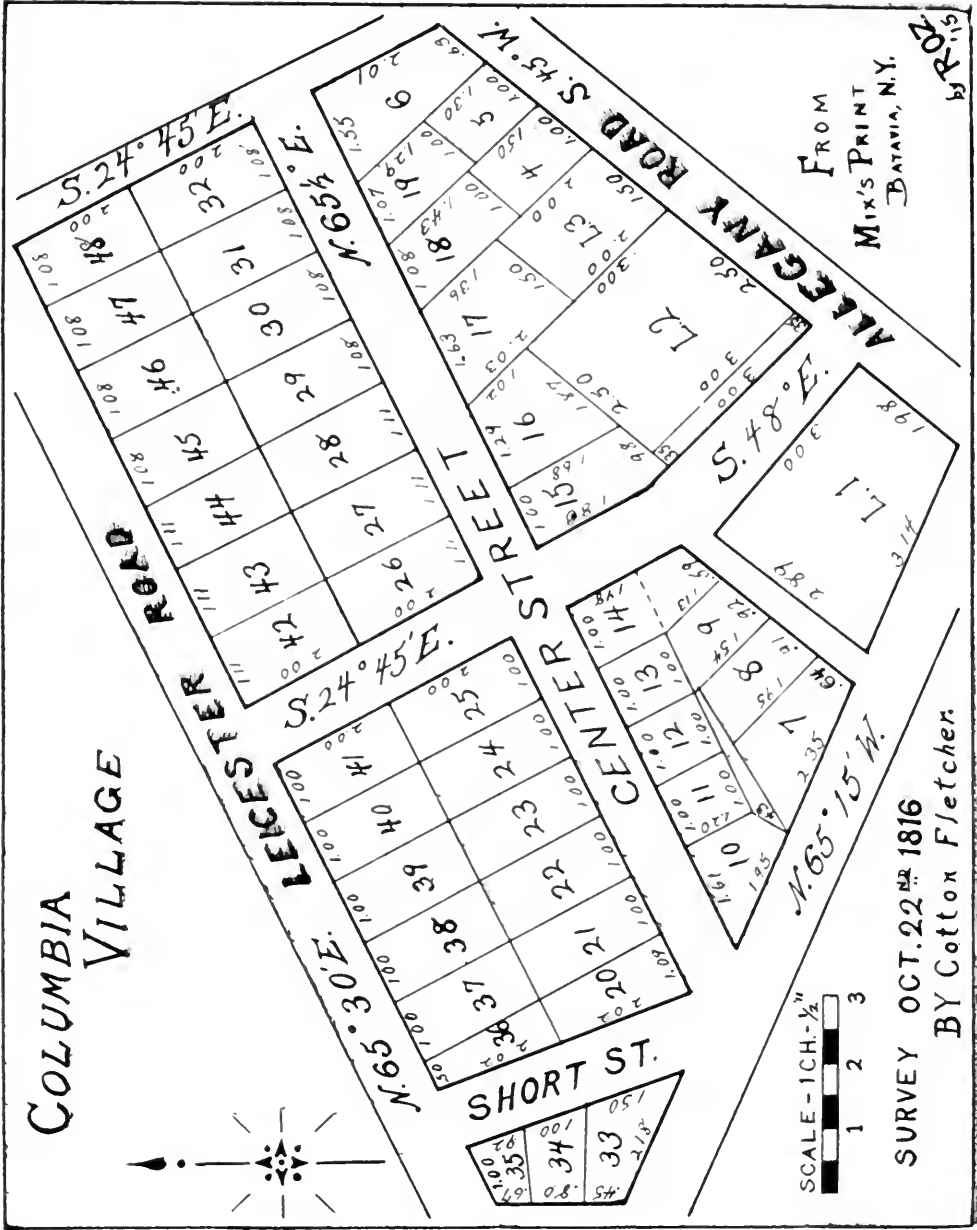
From the above description of methods of laying out streets the reader can gain an understanding of the reason for the hit-and-miss arrangement of the older streets of the village, many of them apparently created from cowpaths or the most used paths of early days, the same as is said of the streets of Boston, Mass., and because the original owners of the tracts in which this locality was situated did not believe that it would be developed, giving their attention to other and more promising sections, leaving this small settlement to work out its own destiny.

The culvert on Main street over the outlet was constructed under the supervision of Noah Bacon at an early date, presumably about 1830; prior to that a wooden bridge crossed the stream. When the culvert was built it was quite narrow and the sidewalks on either side were constructed as ordinary bridges. In 1857, Judge Rufus H. Smith widened the culvert to its present dimension, filling in with dirt excavated from the cellar for the Smith block, which was under construction at that time.

The culvert on Gardeau street was constructed in 1883 by B. A. Nevins, Supervisor, and Warren A. Phillips, Highway Commissioner. John Bernard was the contractor. In making the necessary fill, 7,000 cubic yards of dirt was used the first year and 3,000 the second year. A wooden bridge erected at an early date was in use up to this time.

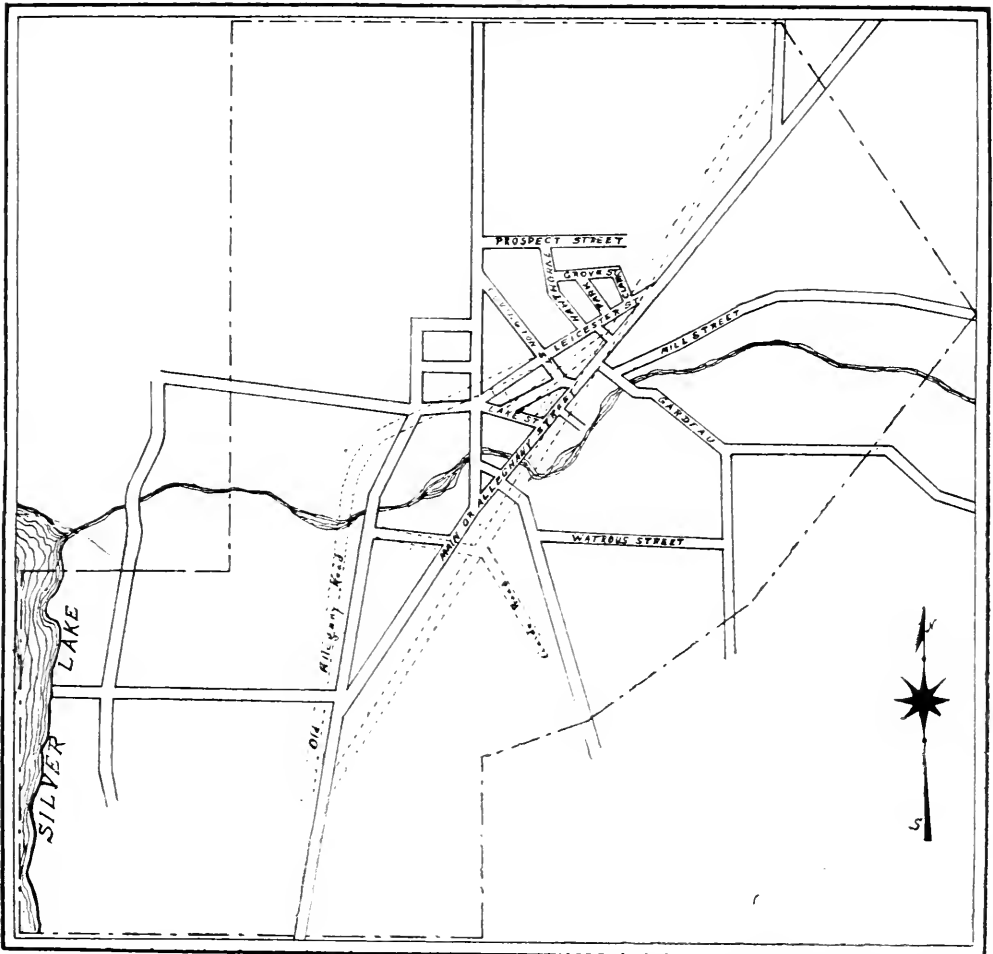
A wooden bridge was erected across the outlet ravine on Center street, near Tomlinson & Son's mill, in 1813. A culvert took its place in about the year 1832 and was constructed by Highway Commisisoner Noah Bacon. This first culvert was narrow, being only eight feet wide. It was extended somewhat in 1865 and in 1903 it was rebuilt and greatly enlarged under the direction of B. A. Nevins, Supervisor, and Lewis H. Crane, Highway Commissioner.

Farming land on the east side of the outlet, belonging to



The above map was kindly furnished by Hon. B. A. Nevins and shows a portion of the Village of Perry (called Columbia at that time) as it was in 1816, and will give the reader a fair idea of the village streets as originally laid out. Main street was then known as the Allegany road; Leicester

street as Leicester road; Short street as Center street. The unnamed streets in the center and at the lower left of the map represent what are now known as Covington and Lake streets. It will be noticed that what is now Short street was originally laid out to intersect Lake and Church streets, but the portion of Short Street from Covington street to Church street was not worked and never became a thoroughfare. Leicester street in 1816 at its western extremity intersected the West Perry road at or near the present corner of Federal and Lake streets, instead of the present intersection at the Five Corners. The roadway designated as Short street, which is shown connecting Leicester road and the present Lake street was closed about 1835. The narrow roadway connecting Lake and Covington streets was closed many years ago.



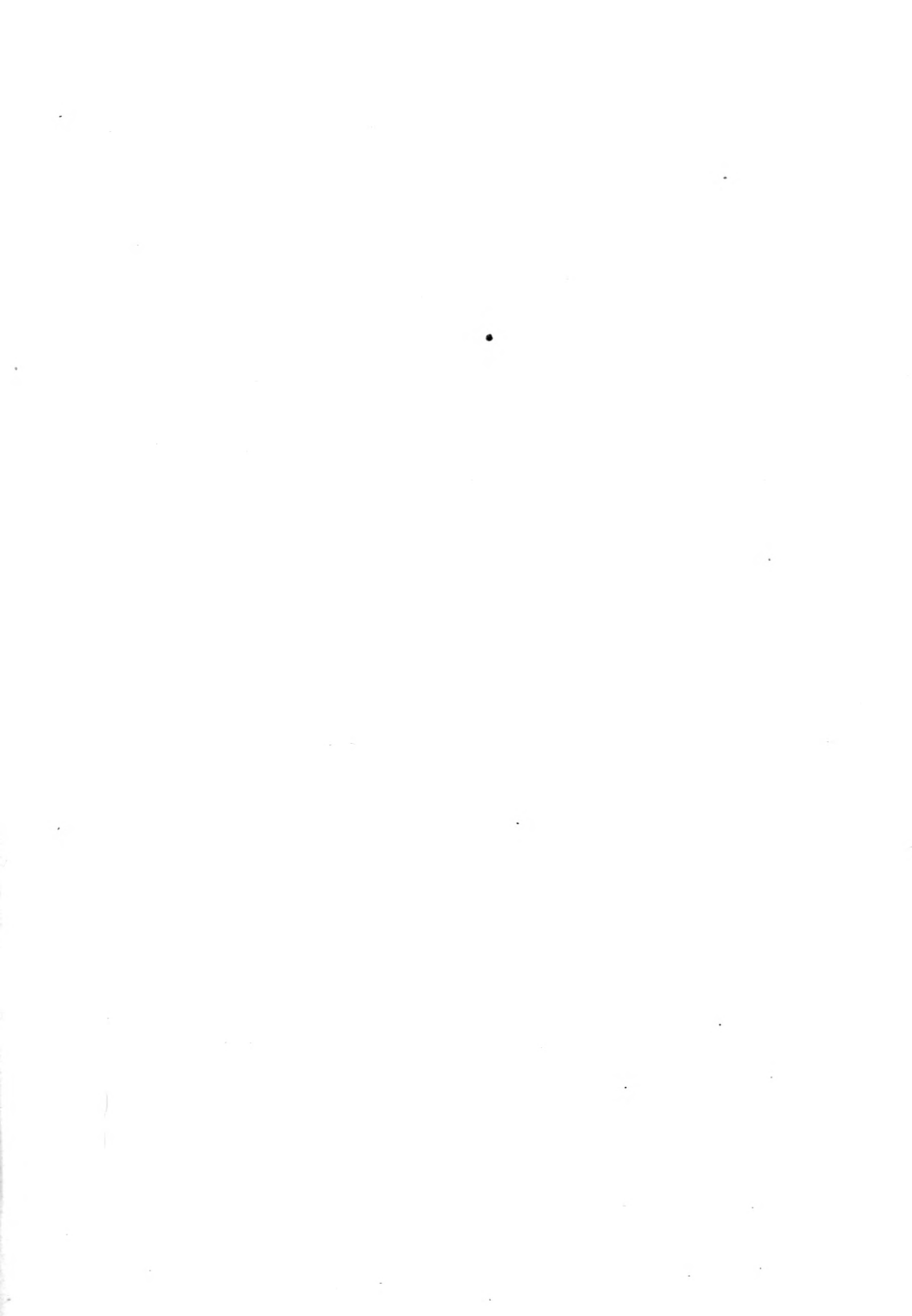
The above map is published to show the reader by dotted lines the approximate location of the old abandoned roads of the village and the streets

which were laid out up to 1853, which is about midway from the time of the settlement of the village to the present. The dot and dash lines show the corporation line of the period. The street designated as Prospect street was laid out at this time but was not worked. Some years later, Watkins avenue was laid out a little north of its location. Water street was known at that time as Mill street.

the late John and Robert Grisewood was cut into building lots, and in 1892 Borden Avenue was laid out from Watrous street to the outlet opposite Main street, and dedicated to the village, Aug. 1st, 1892. The section built up rapidly and, in 1894, an iron bridge was erected across the outlet to connect the property with Main street, by the Oswego Bridge Co., under the direction of E. G. Matthews, Supervisor, and Edward Purecell, Highway Commissioner.

Owing to the expansion of the plant of the Perry Knitting Co., and the growth of the population in the vicinity of their mills, the late Alonzo Crane cut his farm land on the east bank of the outlet into building lots in the year 1900 and laid out Walnut street and dedicated it to the village. That section was soon occupied by a number of houses and, in 1902, an iron bridge spanning the outlet and connecting Walnut and Water streets, was erected by the Oswego Bridge Co., under the direction of W. W. Grieve, Supervisor, and Lewis H. Crane, Highway Commissioner.

For a period of many years, work was done on the streets of Perry to keep them in condition, but in the Spring and Fall of each year many of them were almost impassable, notwithstanding, for the reason that there was no systematic or scientific plan in use. In particular, Main, Lake, Center and Water streets, where traffic was heavy, were at times simply highways of mud to the depth of from one to two feet, a severe handicap to users of the streets and especially to teamsters and our industries that had much hauling of unfinished and finished products. The urgent need of improving conditions became gener-



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the late John and Robert Grisewood was cut into building lots, and in 1892 Borden Avenue was laid out from Watrous street to the outlet opposite Main street, and dedicated to the village, Aug. 1st, 1892. The section built up rapidly and, in 1894, an iron bridge was erected across the outlet to connect the property with Main street, by the Oswego Bridge Co., under the direction of E. G. Matthews, Supervisor, and Edward Purecell, Highway Commissioner.

Owing to the expansion of the plant of the Perry Knitting Co., and the growth of the population in the vicinity of their mills, the late Alonzo Crane cut his farm land on the east bank of the outlet into building lots in the year 1900 and laid out Walnut street and dedicated it to the village. That section was soon occupied by a number of houses and, in 1902, an iron bridge spanning the outlet and connecting Walnut and Water streets, was erected by the Oswego Bridge Co., under the direction of W. W. Grieve, Supervisor, and Lewis H. Crane, Highway Commissioner.

For a period of many years, work was done on the streets of Perry to keep them in condition, but in the Spring and Fall of each year many of them were almost impassable, notwithstanding, for the reason that there was no systematic or scientific plan in use. In particular, Main, Lake, Center and Water streets, where traffic was heavy, were at times simply highways of mud to the depth of from one to two feet, a severe handicap to users of the streets and especially to teamsters and our industries that had much hauling of unfinished and finished products. The urgent need of improving conditions became gener-

ally admitted, and it was decided to send to the State Department of Highways for an expert to come and look over the situation and give the authorities his advice as to the best plan to pursue. The Department sent Frank Lyon in response to the request, and the whole subject was gone over carefully with him, with the result that in 1903 the village voted to bond itself in the sum of \$15,000 for the construction of Macadam streets to the extent that the sum would pay for. George C. Diehl, Highway Engineer of Erie County, was secured to plan and supervise the work, which was done by Street Superintendent P. A. McArthur and his force of assistants. For that sum, Main street was paved from Hope to Mill street; Mill street and Water street to Main. The width of the improved road was 20 feet on the average, but was widened to 40 feet through the business section. Since that time, other streets have been similarly improved, viz: Center street from the junction at Main street to Lake street; Lake to Short street; Short street to Covington street; Covington street to Center street; Lake street to Federal street. Approximately, \$30,000 has been invested in such improvement by the Corporation of Perry, which includes slag on the Lake and Main street hills and other minor improvements that have made our streets in usable condition with convenience and the ability to haul heavy loads over them at any period of the year.

CHAPTER XVII

Early Transportation by Stage Coach and Canal—Long and Bitter Struggle to Secure Railroad Connections—The Men Who Made It a Reality.

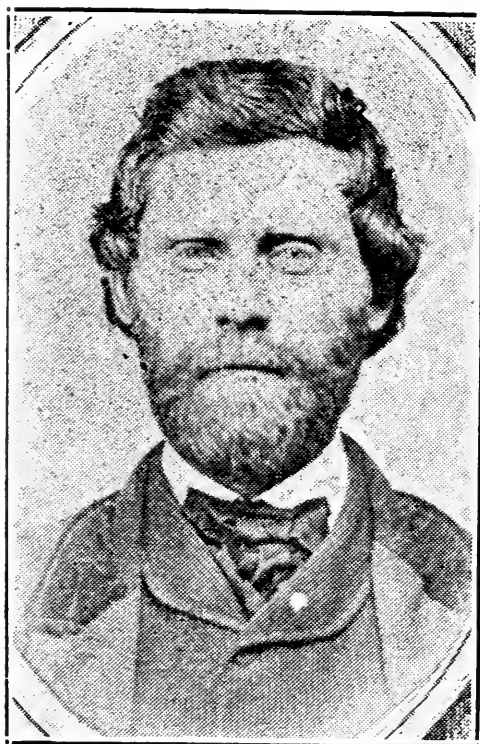
Up to the year 1871, the only means of public conveyance in Perry was the time-honored stage coach. Although everything conceivable was done for the accommodation of the traveler, transportation by stage was exceedingly slow and tedious. Taverns abounded throughout the country, averaging through this section one to about every mile of highway.

In the early days of the stage business Perry was one of the largest and most important villages in Western New York. The main stage route east and west from Canandaigua to Ellipticville ran through here on the old Allegany road. After the opening of the old Genesee Valley Canal, stages ran twice daily between Perry and Cuylerville.

A certain Edwin Root, a notorious wag, ran a popular stage line between Perry and Geneseo for a number of years. It is said that he was a wide-mouthed, loud talking driver, who could guide four horses and hold his whip in one hand while with the other he could press his tin horn to his big mouth and blow blasts loud and long. The turn that he took in coming up to the hotel would have done credit to the Fifth Avenue nabobs with their English drags and outriders. He was a firm believer in advertising, and the writer was fortunate enough to secure one of his widely-distributed handbills bearing date of Jan. 1st, 1844, from which the following excerpts are taken:

“Male and Female Stages from Perry to Geneseo and back in a flash. Baggage, persons and eyesight at the risk of the owners and no questions answered. Having bought the

valuable rights of young Master James Howard in this line, the subscriber will streak it daily from Perry to Geneseo for the conveyance of Uncle Sam's mail and family, leaving Perry before the crows wake up in the morning and arriving at the first house this side of Geneseo about the same time. Return-



WILLIAM WARD

ing, leave Geneseo after the crows have gone to roost and reach Perry in time to join them. Passengers will please keep their mouths shut, for fear they will lose their teeth. Fare to suit passengers.

“The Public's Much Obligated Servant, Edwin Root.”

A stage route from Perry to Batavia was a popular thoroughfare for many years. A.B. Walker ran stages between Perry

and Pike, and Perry and Attica. The building of the Erie Railroad seriously affected the stage business, and for many years the main line was the formerly well-known "Bill" Ward's Express between Perry and Castile. A stage to Mt. Morris was also continued until after the opening of the Silver Lake Railroad. The last of the once flourishing traffic was a one-horse wagon which came up from Pavilion carrying the way mail to Covington, LaGrange and Perry Center. The crack of the long whip and the toot of the driver's horn is no longer heard, and the old thorough-brace vehicles have gone to decay. The locomotive and the automobile have found their way throughout the entire country, giving facilities for transportation and business, and affording conveniences and speed in travel in wide contrast to the difficulties and tedious journeys encountered by the early settlers in reaching the spot which their toil converted from a wilderness to a modern Garden of Eden.

Most of the produce raised in this section between 1840 and 1852 was hauled overland to Cnylerville and shipped over the Genesee Valley Canal to Rochester, Albany, Troy and all points east. After the Erie Railroad Company completed their line through Castile in the Summer of 1852, more or less was shipped over that route.

The citizens of Perry, feeling the need of railroad communication, began to agitate the proposition as early as 1866. The first railroad article, in which the project of securing an iron connection with the outside world was discussed, appeared in the Silver Lake Sun of March 2d, 1867. In this article a road was contemplated from Rochester by way of LeRoy and Perry, up the Genesee Valley to Olean and thence into Pennsylvania. This was the origin of the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg Railroad (State Line Railroad) and it was probably regarded at the time by the majority of Perry's citizens as newspaper talk that would amount to nothing. Several prominent citizens then

asserted that the time had gone by when a railroad could be built that would reach Perry. It was argued that all cross lines in the state ran northwest and southeast, and "the lay of the country" would prevent any line from reaching us.

Finding this too large a project to begin with, the local press came out in favor of a railroad from Perry to Silver Springs (then called East Gainesville), and had a preliminary survey and report made by Col. James O. McClure, C. E.

Probably the most enthusiastic agitator in favor of providing Perry with a railroad connection with the outside world was the late James Wyckoff, who was among the first to recognize the advantages that would accrue in developing the town and stimulating its growth. Mr. Wyckoff took an aggressive part in the preliminary work, so much so that he aroused bitter antagonism on the part of some residents of the north part of the town, who believed that he was attempting to saddle upon them a debt that could never be lifted. One of the most bitter ones remarked: "I feel that I would be justified in taking a crowbar and breaking open your safe." Others bitterly opposed the proposition for a railroad, one teamster agreeing to haul with two teams all of the freight that would ever come into or go out of Perry.

How ridiculous those matters appear now, in the light of the present situation. But there is no doubt that the misguided ones were sincere in their opinions, and we can think of their attitude with amused tolerance. On the other hand, what an obligation we owe to Mr. Wyckoff, Mr. Page, Mr. Sanders and those other men to whose vision and the courage to fight for their convictions made possible the realization of a railroad and lifted Perry out of the class of "little inland towns."

At the time of the death of Mr. James Wyckoff on July 19th, 1890, George C. King (then editor of the Perry Herald),

in an obituary notice of Mr. Wyckoff made the following reference to his connection with the Silver Lake Railway:

“He was one of the original and most active and determined promoters of the Silver Lake Railway enterprise; was president of the road for a number of years and a director from the beginning until now. After the sale of the road, he held for several years the office of Railroad Commissioner of the Town of Perry.”

The late George Tomlinson, who was a contemporary of Mr. Wyckoff and associated with him in local affairs, paid the following tribute to his memory in an obituary notice which appeared in the Perry Weekly News on July 24th, 1890:

“The death of Mr. James Wyckoff calls to mind the critical days of the Perry railroad. While others bore an important part and rendered valuable assistance, it was his unyielding perseverance that held all in line. His far-sighted sagacity took in the future of the enterprise, and he was willing to stand in the breach and take the responsibility from which more timid men shrank in dismay. When all others were despondent and gave way before the accumulated discouragements, his faith grew stronger and his active efforts were redoubled until a gleam of hope revived the courage of others and the project was a success.

“It is to Mr. James Wyckoff that the Town of Perry is indebted more than to any other man for the great public improvement which connected this village with the outside world. He was as confident in the most gloomy period of the undertaking as when he saw the first locomotive run over the rails. Other pens will do him justice and record his worth, but it is befitting his memory to note an achievement of so much public benefit.”

The movement in Perry attracted the attention of enterprising men north and south of us, and the through road proposition again began to be discussed. The first State Line Railroad meeting took place at Wiscoy, March 5th, 1869, and was attended by prominent citizens of Rochester and the towns



JAMES WYCKOFF

along the route proposed. Messrs. George A. Sanders of Perry and L. R. Hitchcock were appointed a committee to visit the Pine Creek region of Pennsylvania and report in regard to its resources, productions, and the feasibility of reaching it by rail. Their report was presented at a largely attended meeting held at Castile on March 17th, and it added greatly to the prevailing enthusiasm all along the line. Another meeting in aid of the project was held in Caledonia on March 31st, and at Rochester on April 8th, 1869, the State Line Railway Company was organized. It was not until after this preliminary work had been completed, and an organization effected, that a counter move was started at Warsaw, which finally resulted in the abandonment of the above mentioned route. It was eventually located upon what is known as the "Warsaw and Salamanca route," at a meeting held in Rochester on January 7th, 1870.

At the largest and most enthusiastic railroad meeting ever held in the county, convened at Smith's Hall in Perry on Jan. 12th, 1870, the Rochester & Pine Creek Railway Company was organized. Its purpose was to build a road from Castile to Caledonia, and had every town on the line adhered to the plan with the firmness and determination of Perry, the trains would have long since been running over the route from Rochester to the Pennsylvania Railroad. It soon became apparent that the efforts of the Warsaw people who were quietly working in opposition to the plan had alienated the managers at Rochester from this route, and in some of the towns it began to be looked upon as too large a job to undertake without Rochester's aid.

Perry was soon bonded for \$100,000 in aid of the road, and on the 20th of August, 1870, R. C. Mordoff, R. W. Brigham and L. G. Morgan were appointed commissioners. An opposition developed in Castile, which prevented the bonding of that town. A disposition was manifested in York to "go slow," and

the project seemed to be in a fair way to get another setback. At this time the proposition was revived in favor of Perry taking hold of the matter alone and going to Silver Springs, the nearest point on the Erie Railroad. A majority of the people heartily endorsed the proposal and the directors were urged to begin work.

On the 5th of December, 1870, the contract for the grading and masonry from Perry to Silver Springs was let to A. Marcellus, to be completed August 1st, 1871. Robert Bell had previously been engaged as civil engineer, and the work was begun on Dec. 8th, 1870, near the culvert across the outlet, just above the present site of the Tempest Knitting Company's plant. The road was completed and a long blast from the locomotive announced its first arrival in Perry, on Oct. 20th, 1871. Some delay was experienced in procuring rolling stock and making the necessary arrangements for the operation of the road; but everything was eventually secured, and on the 14th day of February, 1872, the first regular passenger train left Perry for Silver Springs.

The \$100,000 raised by bonding the town was used in the construction of the road; the balance needed for procuring the necessary equipment (some \$23,000) was generously furnished by a number of the local citizens.

For a period of a few years the road was operated with varying degrees of success. In 1877 the time came, however, when the operating expenses were greater than the receipts, and conditions did not look favorable for the maintenance of the line. To make things worse, there came a heavy snow storm during the Winter of that year and the track was covered with an unknown depth of snow. All traffic was suspended; there was no money in the treasury. A meeting of the directors was called and all answered to their names, as follows: Samuel Chapin, Henry N. Page, Rufus H. Stedman, M. C. Williams,

James Wyckoff, German Olin, E. G. Matthews, Austin Toan, I. C. Rudgers, R. W. Brigham, Luther Chapin, George Tomlinson, J. C. Lowing. Deep anxiety was visible upon every face, and the grave question was: "What shall be done in this emergency?" Two questions were up for consideration. It was understood that parties would give \$50,000 for the road, franchise and rolling stock.

George A. Sanders, at that time a resident of Perry, sent in a proposition to lease the road for a term of years, agreeing to pay the town \$1,000 per year as rental, the town to pay the expense of clearing the snow from the track. There was apparent an unwillingness to offer the road for sale, so the only question left was the proposition of Mr. Sanders. A resolution was offered in these words:

"Resolved, That the proposition of George A. Sanders be accepted, and the president of the road is hereby instructed to close the contract and execute a lease."

While this resolution was under discussion, Mr. Mark Smith called one of the members of the Board aside and asked that he be permitted to make a bid. This was reported to the meeting and the motion was carried to postpone for one week the question of leasing the road. The desperation of the situation was such that much feeling was manifested, and the question of postponement was carried by only one majority. This was on a Saturday. The following Monday morning, Mr. E. G. Matthews provided himself with an Alpenstock and walked the entire distance to Silver Springs, taking measurements of the depth of the snow on the track. At a meeting of the Board, convened on the next Wednesday, Mr. Matthews in giving his report, exclaimed: "Gentlemen, I will stake my reputation that I can make that road pay!" As a result, the Board gave him the opportunity to make good his boast and an agreement was made by which Mr. Matthews was to advance \$1,000 and was

authorized to superintend the removal of the snow from the track. This was accomplished, but at something more than the estimate, and this crisis was passed. In assuming charge of the affairs of the railroad, Mr. Matthews arranged his desk in one of the cars and transacted all of the business pertaining to the

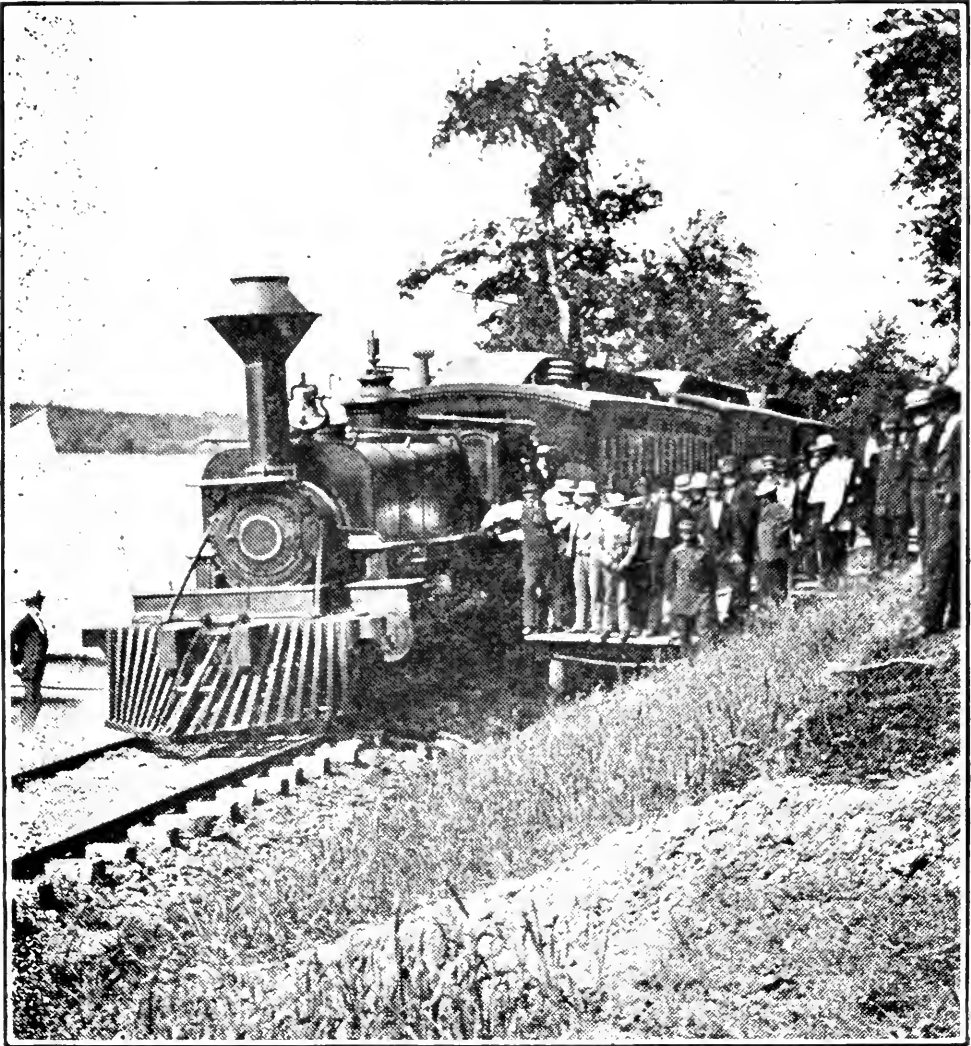


EDWARD G. MATTHEWS.

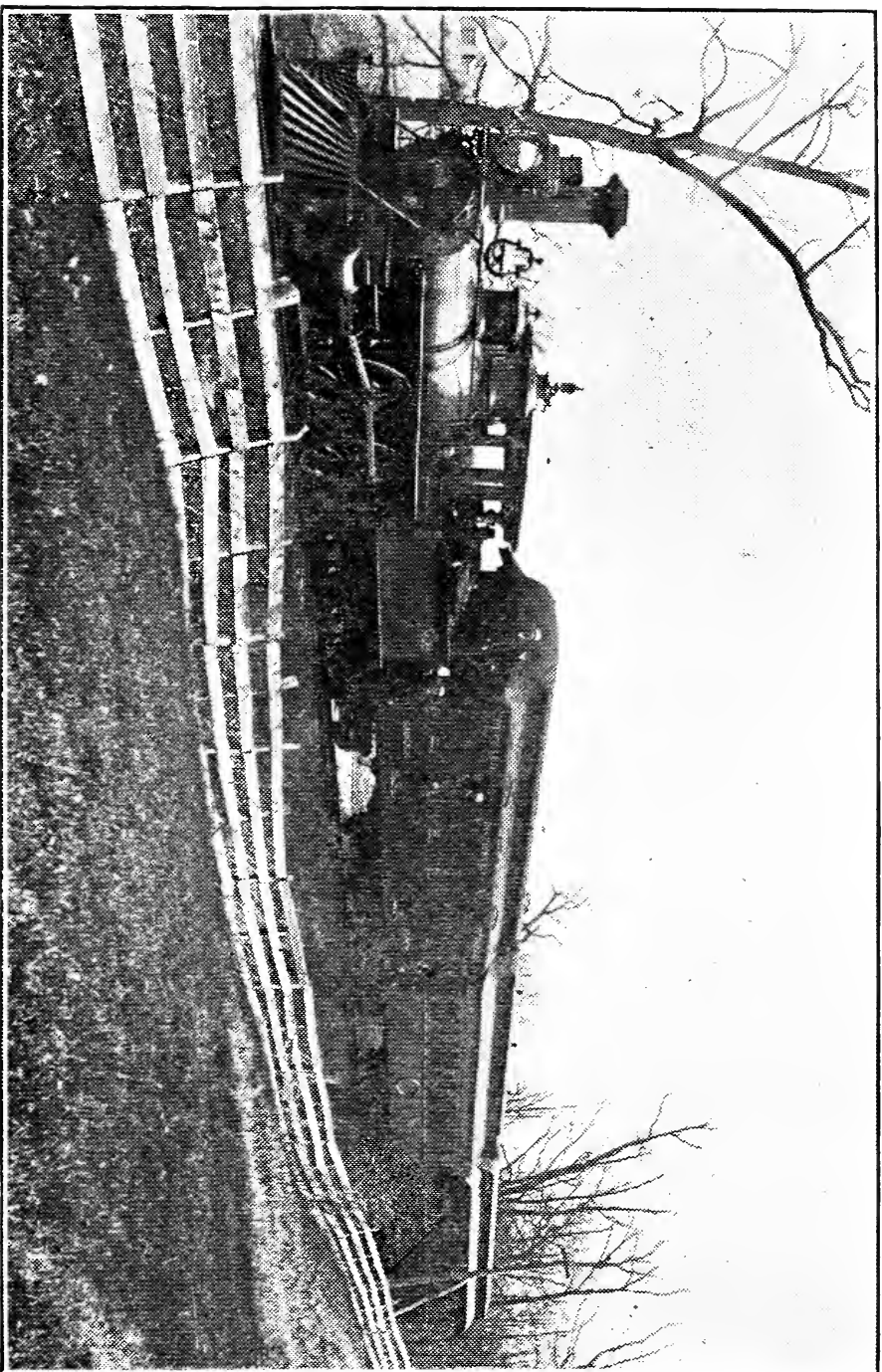
operation of the line in that little portable office. Few people now living can measure the depth of anxiety that was so oppressive to the management of the Silver Lake Railway in its early days.

R. D. Higgins became personally known to every taxpayer in Perry, for he was untiring in the work of bonding the town each of the three times that it was bonded.

When disaster overtook the road and financial collapse seemed to be imminent, Mr. E. G. Matthews became the Atlas who took the burden upon his shoulders and placed it upon the rock of success. It was not long before his honesty and business integrity began to show itself in the good results at-



First Train over the Silver Lake Railway.



First Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Train into Perry

tained. In 1877 the gross earnings of the railroad amounted to \$7,000; in the year 1883 they were \$18,000 and steadily increased from that time on. Mr. Matthews was succeeded for a time by the late C. W. G. Nobles.

The Silver Lake road had connection with Rochester at a station on the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg road at East Gainesville, in charge of an agent named Hitchcock. Passengers had to take a stage from East Gainesville on the Erie (now Silver Springs) to reach the one above referred to. At that time a train ran from Rochester to Gainesville Creek, where it laid over, returning to Rochester in the morning, and that was Perry's best connection to and from Rochester.

Early in the year 1882, a corporation was formed by stockholders of the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg road and others, for the purpose of building a spur from that road to Silver Springs and permitting its trains to run direct to Perry, where the business conditions were such as indicated its advantage as a lay-over point, instead of Gainesville Creek, and a spur was constructed from what is now called Silver Lake Junction to Silver Springs. It was completed in midsummer, and the first train direct from Rochester to Perry came over the spur and the Silver Lake road on July 2, 1882, in charge of Conductor A. J. Wood. There was great rejoicing on the part of the citizens of the town at this accomplishment, and it took the form of a demonstration of public approval.

In the Spring of 1886 the Silver Lake Railway was sold to Mr. A. G. Yates of Rochester for \$128,000, which was an advance over the original amount for which it was bonded, probably the only case in the United States where such a happy outcome was realized. It remained under the control of Mr. Yates and his estate until October, 1910, when the property was sold to the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg Railroad Co., who

have made many improvements to bring it up to the standard of the main line and are giving Perry excellent service.

Perry's real growth began with the advent of the railroad. When it was first proposed to secure a railroad to or through Perry, numerous predictions were made by the friends of the project, relative to what it would do for our town and village. At that time many of the advantages which were asserted would follow were regarded as greatly exaggerated, if not wholly absurd; but, nevertheless, with the coming of the railroad, things took on a new look. There was a better market for produce and buyers paid a higher price for it than they could afford in the years past, when the cost of transportation overland to the Genesee Valley Canal and outside railroad points was so high.

Two years after the construction of the railroad, Perry had grown more than it had in the 20 years previous. A score of new dwellings had been erected and numerous improvements had been made on old buildings. New business places had been erected, and the stores, shops and manufactories were all occupied and were doing a profitable business.

Perry became a market for the sale of grain, fruit and other produce and it attracted the attention of farmers for miles around. The amount of merchandise sold here was said to have increased in equal ratio through the growth and progress of the town. Millers and manufacturers largely increased their facilities and secured business that formerly they were unable to reach. The possibilities within the reach of Perry were made apparent by the construction of the railroad. With good water power and good transportation facilities it was in a position to invite and secure other and larger manufactories.

The energy and loyalty manifested in the efforts to improve home conditions, so earnestly displayed by the men of

Perry who assisted in securing the railroad, deserve the highest commendation, for those same men unquestionably paved the way for the industrial development and the general material prosperity which the town enjoys today.

CHAPTER XVIII

Theatres and Amusement Places—The Roller Skating Craze—Conception of a Town Hall and Auditorium and Its Realization as an Important Public Building.

The earliest theatre, or public hall, of which we have been able to obtain any information was located in the old National Hotel which was doing business in Perry in 1841. Home talent plays and traveling troupes were accommodated in the large dance hall of this popular hostelry. The elite of Perry also "tripped the light fantastic" there on many social occasions.

Smith's Hall was erected in 1857 and was located in the third story of the Smith Block (now the Olin Block) on Main street. This hall was in continuous use as a theatre and public hall until its destruction in the big fire of 1891. Previous to that time, the block had been purchased by the late M. H. Olin, who entirely remodeled, enlarged and beautified Smith's Hall and renamed it "Olin Opera House," where many high class entertainers appeared in concert, the drama, opera, etc., as well as many local residents in amateur theatricals.

In the days of Smith's Hall and Olin Opera House, such noted people as the late Horace Greely, Mary A. Livermore, John B. Gough, Bayard Taylor, John A. Logan and numerous others appeared there on the lecture platform and gave the intellectual stimulus that developed to a marked degree the culture that was a general characteristic of the people of Perry 25 years and more ago.

White's Hall (later Bucknam's Hall) was built on South Main street by the late Daniel C. White in the Fall of 1886. The lumber of which it was constructed came from what had been a large roller skating rink located on Leicester street, in the hollow just below the Crocker property, on the north side

of the street. It was erected by a firm of outsiders, Sheldon & Robinson, and was a building about 125 feet long and 60 feet wide. Mr. Sheldon purchased the interest of his partner after a few months and continued its management during the life of the roller skating craze, which was about three years, when it suddenly began to wane. During that time the Rink was the scene of numerous brilliant skating carnivals, races and exciting polo contests. Under the management of J. Lewis Wyc'off, Perry developed a polo team that won an extended reputation and defeated the crack teams of this section. It was composed of J. A. Clement, captain; Michael Whelan, Ed. Tallmadge, Clifford Bills, Charles Rudd of Perry, Aaron Jones of Castile, and one other member whose name is not recalled. Their contests here and in surrounding towns with opposing teams drew large crowds, and the interest and enthusiasm manifested was as great as ever displayed in support of local base ball teams. Frank E. Wade, a local resident, developed considerable skill as a racer and won a number of contests and medals. The Rink was a great place of amusement and entertainment while the "skating fever" raged, but the time came when interest abated and the decline of business was steady until the building was sold to Mr. White. He demolished the structure and with the lumber erected the building that at present stands on the west side of South Main street, owned and occupied by Wm. Bucknam, used as a livery stable on the ground floor.

For several years, White's Hall was the scene of social gatherings, dramatic entertainments, concerts, lectures, etc., until the time came as a result of the growth of the town that it was not large enough to accommodate the number of people who desired to attend some of the attractions, and its location on the second floor of a frame building was considered by many as an unsafe gathering place for a crowd of people.

After the sale of the Silver Lake Railway, previously referred to, the profit was being used in yearly rebates of a comparatively small sum to the taxpayers. In 1896 the report of the Railroad Commissioners showed that there was in their hands a total of \$16,630.87 over and above bonds outstanding, and the plan was conceived by C. M. Smith to use \$10,000 of that sum for the purpose of erecting a suitable town hall for public gatherings, and the suggestion was presented to a number of townspeople for their consideration. The suggestion met with the approval of the majority to whom it was made, the matter was presented to the people in articles in the local papers, and after the proposition had been given publicity and the general response appeared to be favorable, a bill was introduced in the State Legislature by Assemblyman M. N. Cole of Castile on Jan. 18th, 1897, providing that the Town Board of the Town of Perry submit a proposition to the taxpayers of the town to construct a Town Hall at an expense of \$10,000, including site, and to appropriate for such purpose from funds held by the Railroad Commissioners. The bill also provided for the appointment of three commissioners to have charge of the construction of such building, should the proposition be carried. The bill was read twice after its introduction, passed unanimously, and on Jan. 25th, 1897, it was signed by Governor Frank S. Black and became a law.

The question was submitted to a vote of the people at the town election held on the 23d of February, 1897, and was carried, the vote being 428 yes, 209 no, a majority of 219 in favor of the proposition. A series of suggestive plans had been on exhibition previous to the election, but the plans finally adopted were much more complete and comprehensive, to meet the probable requirements as they developed from the discussion of the matter.

The proposition having been carried, Town Clerk H. A.

Cole received on March 2d, 1897, the certificate of appointment of Clarence M. Smith, Byron A. Nevins and Wm. D. Page as Town Hall Commissioners, in accordance with the provisions of the special law passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor for the appointment of three commissioners. The commissioners secured nine sets of plans from different architects and after careful consideration of the matter for a period of several weeks, they combined the most desirable features and looked about for the most satisfactory site for the building. There were two that appeared to be the most feasible. The then Horace Alburty property on the north side of Covington street, a short distance from Main, and the site on the corner of Main and St. Helena streets, now occupied by the Episcopal Church. In order to get an expression of choice from as great a number of people as possible, a public meeting was called for Friday evening, June 11th, at the fire department building. There was a small attendance, only about 50 persons being present. After a brief discussion of the matter, a resolution was offered requesting the Commissioners to at once institute condemnation proceedings against the property owned by T. H. Bussey on Main street, adjoining the Hotel Perry, now occupied by the Bussey block. The resolution was carried, a large majority of those present voting in favor of it. After explanations and further discussion, considerable sentiment was developed against instituting condemnation proceedings which might involve expensive litigation. Remarks were made by Messrs. James Wylie, B. C. Roup, H. M. Scranton, Wm. Rudd, T. R. Buell, C. W. Rudd, Robert Stainton and Mrs. C. A. Cleveland, and the meeting adjourned without any further action being taken.

The matter rested for about two weeks without apparent crystallization of sentiment in favor of any particular site and the Commissioners concluded to purchase the site on the corner

of Main and St. Helena streets at \$800, which was the lowest in price, \$1600 being asked for the Alburty property. The announcement of intention to purchase the corner site created quite a stir and aroused a strong feeling of dissatisfaction among a large number of people. Learning that there was an earnest desire on the part of many of the taxpayers in favor of a site more centrally located than either of those that had been under consideration, the Commissioners on the 30th of June, 1897, purchased the Bills property for \$3,500, in what is practically the business center of the village. A lot was purchased on Dolbeer place, the former Bills dwelling house was removed to that location and remodeled into a double house for dwelling purposes.

The property was sold at a profit a few years afterward and the receipts from rental and sale were placed to the credit of the Town Hall fund.

The contract for the Town Hall building was let to W. L. Smith of Perry, who was the lowest bidder (with the exception of a Franklinville man, whose bid was only a few dollars less.) Mr. Smith's bid was \$6,966.00 for the exterior and \$2,600 for the interior, making a total of \$9,566.00. No purchaser having been found at this time for the Bills house on its Dolbeer place site, and the building site having cost considerable more than expected, together with the fact that changes and enlargements had been made in the original plan, in accordance with accepted suggestions from several of the older business men who believed in providing for the future as well as present needs, the Commisisoners asked for an appropriation of \$7,000 to complete the building. A special town meeting was called to be held at White's Opera House on Tuesday, Sept. 13th, 1898, to vote upon the proposition. There were only 170 votes cast, the result being as follows: Yes, 136; no, 33; blank, 1.

The plans decided upon provided for a large auditorium on the ground floor, for local or traveling entertainments, lectures, etc.; a large hall on the second floor, for caucuses, elections, dancing parties, receptions, public meetings, etc.; a dining room on the ground floor and a kitchen in the basement. That left a large room on the ground floor, at the right of the entrance and lobby, for renting purposes.

At that time the late George W. Grieve was postmaster and occupied the north half of the Caswell block (now occupied by G. L. Peek's shoe store), where the quarters were more or less crowded, particularly at mail times. The idea suggested itself to the Commissioners that the town's building would make an ideal site for the postoffice, giving it a central location and at the same time giving the town "Uncle Sam" as a probable permanent and unquestionably responsible tenant who would pay a good rate of rental. While they had no authority to act upon the suggestion and incur the additional expense that it would involve, in submitting the matter to other business men the suggestion met with such approval as a good business move that the Commissioners fitted the room for postoffice purposes and purchased an equipment of lock and call boxes, etc., at a cost of \$1498.25.

On March 31st, 1899, J. E. Cole received his commission as postmaster of Perry, succeeding Geo. W. Grieve, and on April 1st he removed the office to the Town Hall building, which has been its location continuously ever since.

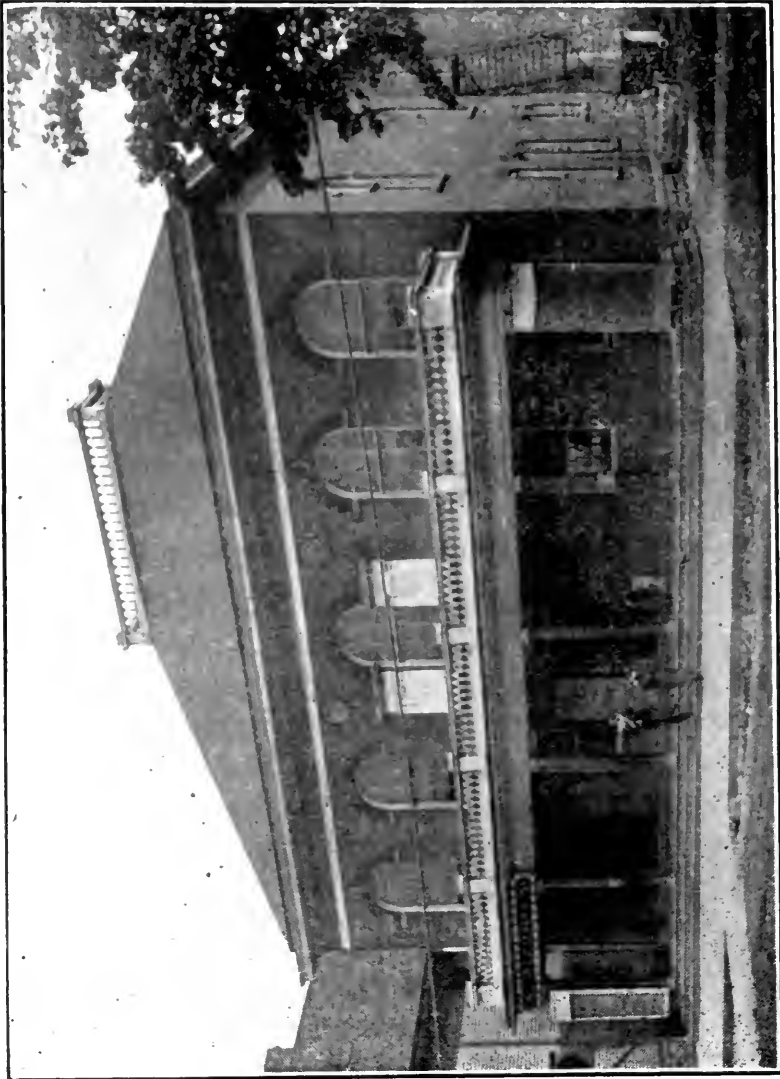
Acting also upon their own initiative, they purchased an equipment of seats for the auditorium of the Grand Rapids School Furniture Co. at an expense of \$1,117.80 and scenery from Sosman & Landis of Chicago at an expense of \$775.97. They also expended \$728.61 for interior decorating and other smaller sums for lighting and ventilating equipment, to make the property complete in its appointments. In taking unauth-

orized action they incurred the severe censure and condemnation of a considerable number of citizens, but with the passing of time and the extent to which the building has been used, some of the critics have admitted the wisdom and foresight of the action of the Commissioners, and even the more bitter ones have modified their opinions.

Although not entirely completed, the building was opened to the public on the evenings of Friday and Saturday, Dec. 30th and 31st, 1898, when the comedy entitled 'The Henrietta' was presented by the following cast, composed entirely of local talent, viz: W. D. Olmsted as Nicholas VanAlstyne; Rev. C. Palmatier as Dr. Parke Wainwright; N. Guy Watrous as Nicholas VanAlstyne, Jr.; C. G. Clarke as Bertie VanAlstyne; A. F. Davis as Lord Arthur Trelawney; L. P. Benedict as Rev. Murray Hilton; Cleveland K. Nobles as Watson Flint; W. D. Hollister as Musgrave; Miss Mary Brick as Mrs. Cornelia Opdyke; Mrs. A. W. Tallman as Rose VanAlstyne; Miss Ada Thomas as Agnes Lockwood; Miss Marie Wildman as Lady Mary Trelawney. Music was furnished by the Casino Orchestra of Perry. The seat prices were from 35 to 75 cents and the house was well filled on both nights, notwithstanding the unfavorable weather and the drifted condition of the roads. On the opening night, boxes were occupied by Mr. George Tomlinson, W. D. Page, C. M. Smith and T. H. Bussey, each with a party of friends. Quite a number of former residents, in Perry to spend the holidays, were present on the opening night. The receipts amounted to \$287.50, which was turned over to the Commissioners for the benefit of the scenery fund, those who took part in the production having willingly given their services for that purpose.

The Commissioners made an itemized report of their receipts and expenditures in a detailed statement to the Town Board, under date of May 27th, 1897, with vouchers, showing

expenditures of \$24,715.59, receipts amounting to \$18,697.79, leaving unpaid bills amounting to \$6,017.82. The property passed from their control into the hands of the Town Board, and payment of the last indebtedness was made several years ago.



TOWN HALL AND POST OFFICE

One of the criticisms frequently heard at the time of the construction of the building was that it would prove to be an elephant on the hands of the town; another that it would never see the time that the house would be filled for an entertainment. In view of the fact that at school commencements as well as on numerous other occasions it has been filled to overflowing, the criticism now heard is that the building is not large enough. Whatever the criticisms may be at this time, if the misfortune should occur that the building became destroyed, it is doubtful if there would be much opposition to an effort to replace it with even a larger and better one, as its usefulness to the town is generally acknowledged.

Among the hotels that have previously been mentioned, we make special reference to the property now occupied by The Tavern for the reason that from early in the history of Perry, the property had been used for hotel purposes. Sherman & Skidmore were among the earliest of its proprietors. Mr. Skidmore soon became the sole proprietor, and after his death in about the year 1838, his widow married Mosely Stoddard, who conducted the hotel for a brief period. In the late 40's, the late Mr. A. B. Walker, who had been conducting the National Hotel across the street, purchased the property and managed the hotel until its destruction by fire in 1857, when he removed to Canada. It was while in charge of this hotel that Mr. Walker conceived the scheme of bringing the Silver Lake sea serpent into existence.

Eleven years later, Mr. Walker returned to Perry and erected the Walker House (now The Tavern,) using as part of it a private residence which stood near the property of Charles Bow on the Center road, previously occupied by a Mr. Butler, and removed to the site on the east side of Main street. The

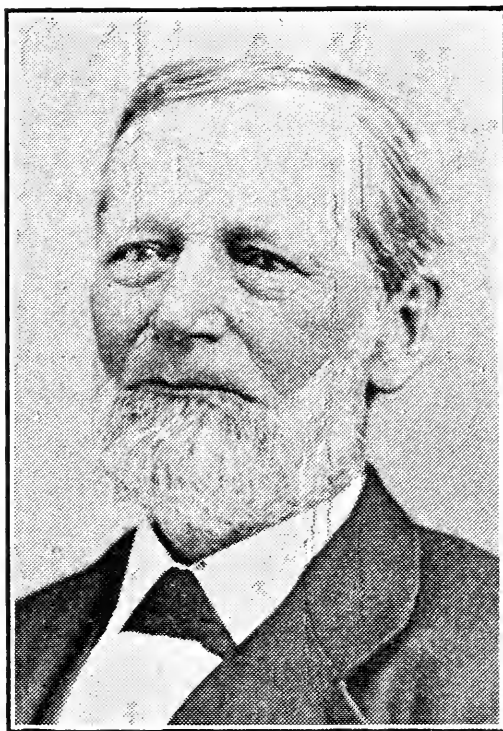


The Walker House, which stood on the present site of The Tavern. It was the birthplace of Mrs. A. J. Wood (Carrie Walker) and was destroyed by fire in 1857. Engraving reproduction from an old daguerrotype.

Walker House opened for the transaction of business in September, 1869. After a few years, Mr. Walker sold the property to Benjamin H. Harford and moved to the old National Hotel across the street. This building was afterward purchased by Charles Wise, who removed it to its present site on Covington street, remodeled it and named it Hotel Covington, and used its Main street site for the location of the present Wise Block. Mr. Walker died in 1889, before its removal to Covington

street, passing away in the same building in which he began his career as a hotel proprietor.

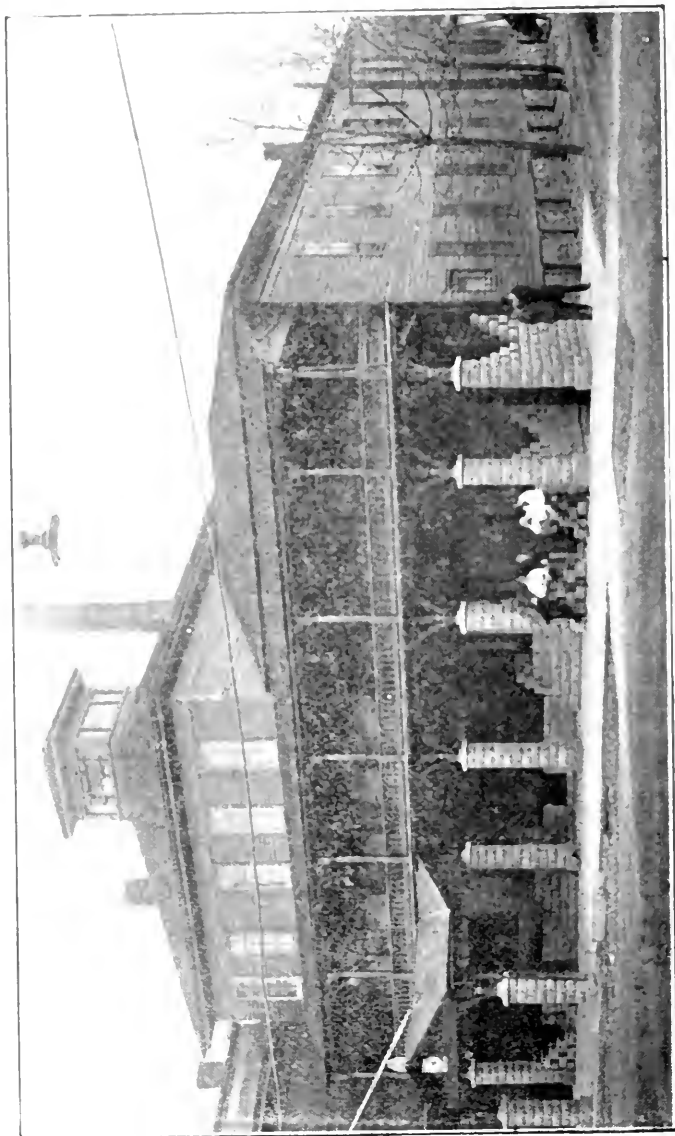
After the opening of the Silver Lake Railway, Mr. Walker purchased property at Silver Lake and erected the present Walker House, which he conducted for a period of 15 years. The property has since been conducted by his son-in-law, Mr. A. J. Wood.



A. B. WALKER

After the death of Mr. Walker, the hotel was leased to C. M. Edgerly, Charles McKay and Edward Hamilton, until it was purchased as above noted by Charles Wise and removed to Covington street and renamed the Hotel Covington. Since that time the house has been conducted by a Mr. Sackett, the late Amos Bauer and his widow.

About 30 years ago, T. H. Bussey purchased the Harford House of the late B. H. Harford and renamed it Hotel Perry.



THE TAVERN

It was conducted for a time by the late Merritt Andrus, succeeded in turn by Mr. Bussey and J. A. Clement. After Mr.

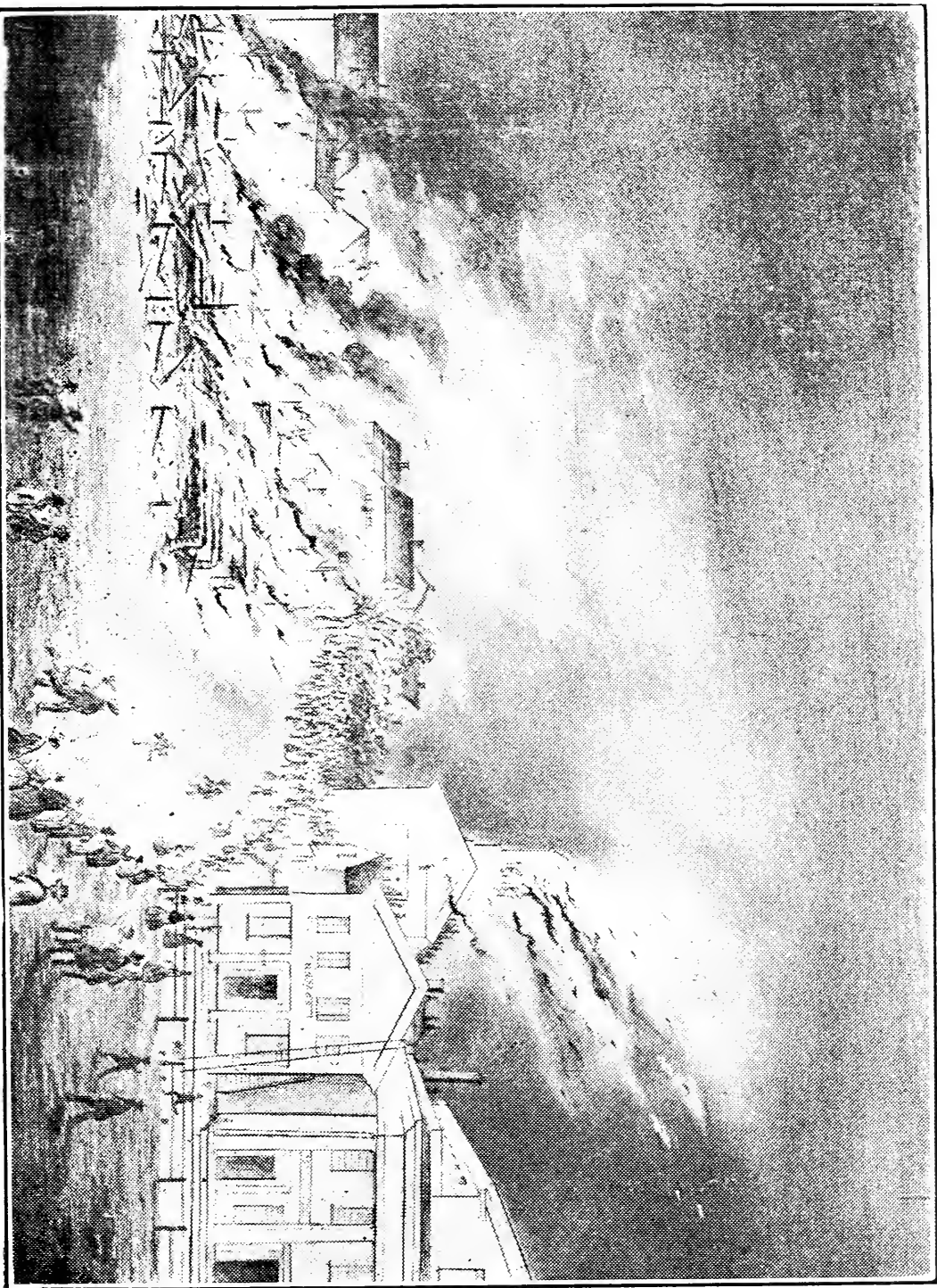
Clement's removal, the house was conducted for about six months by Mr. Bussey, who leased it to G. H. Sanford. Mr. Sanford conducted it for a period of 12 years, until the Summer of 1914, when Mr. Bussey again took the management. The house was remodeled and renamed The Tavern.

CHAPTER XIX

The Most Costly Fires Suffered by Perry—Organization of the Volunteer Fire Department and Company Divisions—Department Buildings—Motor Fire Truck, Etc.

Prior to the organization of the Fire Department in 1887, Perry had no systematic method of fire protection. Up to that time the only means of fighting fires was by the use of the time-honored "bucket brigade." The rapid tolling of a church bell or the blowing of a nearby factory whistle was the signal for the male citizens of the village to seize all of the available buckets and pails of the household and rally at the scene of the fire. Then it was that the bucket brigade would form in line, one end at the fire and the other extremity at the nearest cistern, pump or creek, and by passing the pails the length of the line, a certain amount of water found its way to the fire. Although some effectiveness was accomplished by this method, especially when the fire had not gained much headway, it was not equal to the handling of extensive fires and the result was that Perry suffered several conflagrations before the organization of the regularly equipped fire department in June, 1887.

On Saturday, Sept. 20th, 1856, the first of the great fires in Perry occurred. The buildings burned at that time were occupied by Alexander Cole's shoe store, Seymour Sherman's jewelry store, M. N. Crocker's photograph par and S. & B. B. Higgins' drug store. These buildings occupied the property from the corner of Borden avenue north, including the present site of the Caswell block and the M. S. Sweet building adjoining. Soon after the fire, Mr. Crocker erected a building on Covington street, now occupied by his son, Dr. F. M. Crocker, and conducted a photograph studio there for many years.



Fire of 1856, from drawing by Luther Glasgow.

Five days later, another large fire visited Perry's business section, this time consuming a row of buildings standing on the west side of Main street, from the Traver residence to Lake street, also burning some buildings on Lake street. The steeple on the old Methodist church caught fire, but with heroic work on the part of the citizens, the church was saved. The buildings destroyed were occupied (beginning at the south end of Main street) by R. H. Smith, general store; Smith's Bank; M. C. Williams and Rufus Stedman's grocery; Rufus Brayton's dry goods store; J. B. Shearman's shoe store; R. C. Mordoff's hat store; Perry Times printing office; Postoffice; I. O. O. F. and F. & A. M. lodge rooms; David Lacy's meat market; S. & F. Bullard's harness shop, which stood on the corner of Main and Lake streets. On Lake street, Wm. Wheeler's blacksmith shop; and the residences of Deacon John Westlake and Mr. Thayer were destroyed. The loss of buildings was mainly with Rufus H. Smith, who carried no insurance. It was generally supposed that these two fires were the work of incendiaries. Several young men who had recently begun business, lost their all by these fires.

In November, 1857, the stores from the Bailey block on the corner of Covington and Main streets, north, were burned. These were occupied, in the order named, by R. D. Higgins' crockery store; George Chapin, leather dealer; Bullard Bros.' hardware; and Buttre's furniture store, which was the last in the block.

On December 19th, 1857, the Walker House and barns were burned, together with other smaller buildings. The Walker House then stood on the present site of The Tavern.

On February 1st, 1866, the block between the old National Hotel and Covington street was burned. The stores destroyed were occupied by E. H. Wygant's book store (once Henry Barton's dry goods store, now the J. H. Owen block); also Cyrus

Merrill's dry goods store, on the Covington street corner. James Thayer's photograph studio was over Wygant's store. Mr. Wygant was clerk at the time, and the town and village



DR. GILBERT R. TRAVER

records were destroyed in this fire. In 1867, the late Alexander Cole erected the brick block on the corner of Main and Covington streets, and E. H. Wygant erected the present J. H. Owen block during the same year.

On August 7th, 1880, the Perry Woolen Mills, operated by James Wylie & Son, were destroyed by fire with a loss of \$20,000.

In the Spring of 1887, the trustees of the village recognizing the need of modern fire protection, decided to organize a fire department consisting of an engine company, hook and ladder company and a hose company. Volunteers were called for and the citizens of the village responded nobly in the worthy cause. Within a short time, 75 men had called at Smith's Bank and signed the roll.

Apparatus consisting of an engine (20-man brake), a hook and ladder truck, a hose cart with 600 feet of hose and accessories, were purchased of Rumsey & Co. of Seneca Falls, N. Y., by the Village Trustees at a total cost of \$1250. The regular organization of the Fire Department were effected on June 7th of that year, and the following named were chosen as officers:

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Chief—Dr. Gilbert R. Traver

First Assistant—John Stockwell

Second Assistant—E. M. Wyckoff

Secretary—G. K. Page.

COMPANY OFFICERS

Engine Co. No. 1—Foreman, A. D. Taylor; Assistant, F. H. Stryker.

Hose Co. (afterward Traver Hose Co.)—Foreman, Michael Whelan; Assistant, G. K. Smith.

Hook and Ladder Co. (afterward M. H. Olin H. & L. Co.)—

Foreman, Benjamin Prindle; First Assistant, Wm. V. Nye; Second Assistant, J. Harry Watson.

The Citizens Chemical Company was organized on June 5th, 1890, with the following named as officers: Foreman, Michael Whelan; Assistant, Wallace A. Hunt; Secretary-Treasurer, John T. Riley; Engineers, Albert Richards and J. Harry Watson.

The Active Hose Company (now I. S. Robeson Hose Co.) was organized on Oct. 10th, 1890, and the following named were elected officers: Foreman, Walter T. Olin; Assistant, Earl V. Jenks; Secretary-Treasurer, John Washburn.

With the establishment of the municipal water works system in 1896 the Engine Company became obsolete and the members formed themselves into the T. H. Bussey Protective Co. on August 29th, 1902.

The C. A. Toan Hose Company of Silver Lake was admitted to membership in the Department in May, 1907.

The first rooms used by the Department as a meeting place and also as a place in which to store the apparatus were secured in the basement of White's Hall, now used by Bucknam's Livery. These were the quarters until the erection of the Department building near the culvert on the east side of Main street. This building was the headquarters of the Perry Fire Department for a quarter of a century, or until 1913, at which time the Department moved into their present beautiful and complete quarters in the new Village building.

The first alarm of fire following the organization was sounded on August 16th, 1887, at 4 o'clock p. m. The fire was only a slight one, however, and was extinguished before the companies arrived. The first fire at which water was turned on occurred on Jan. 26th, 1888, at the Reaper Works. Since the organization in 1887, the Department has responded to

about 200 alarms. The total loss by fire during that period is approximately \$260,000.



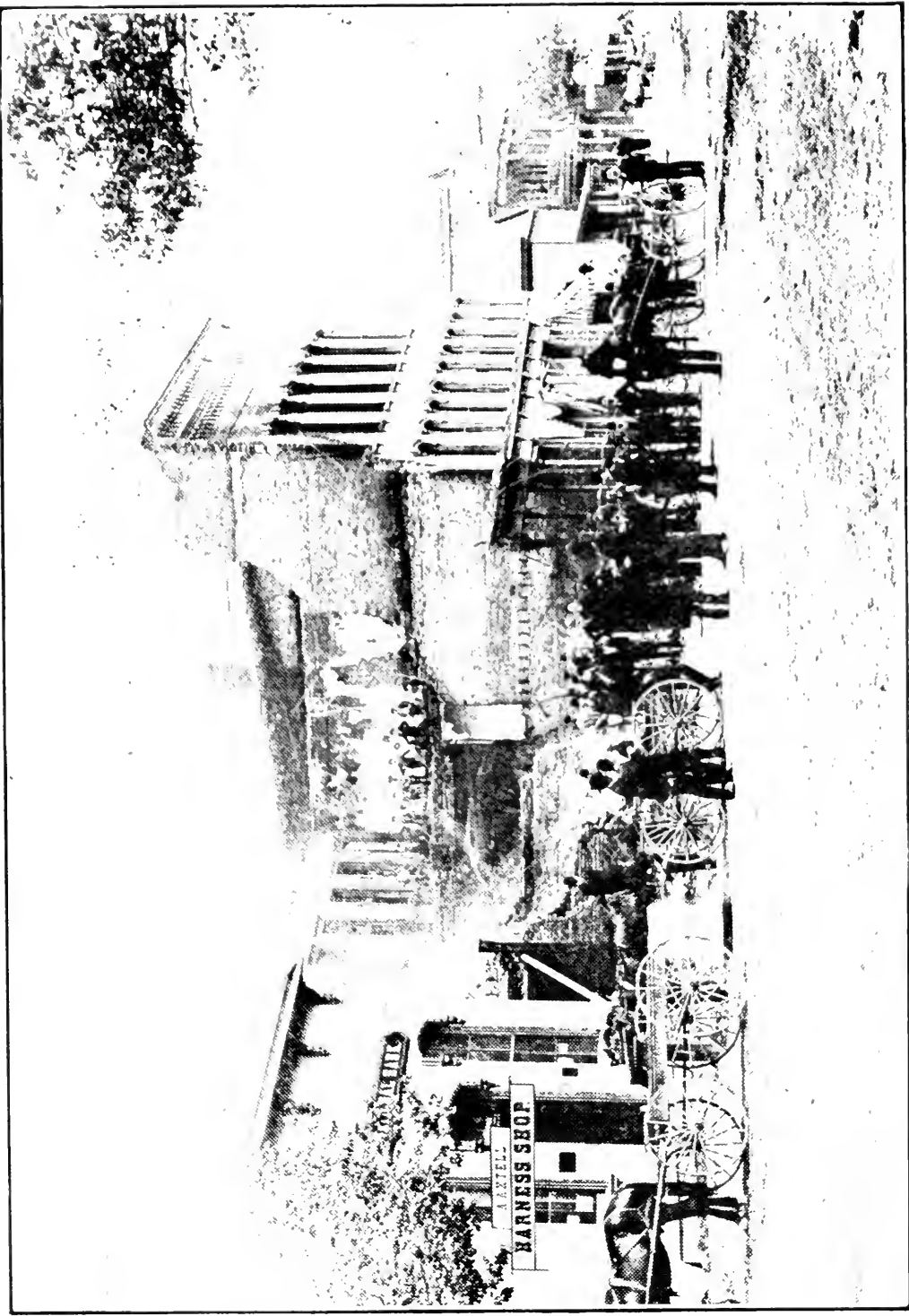
Photograph taken in winter of 1895, showing old Department Building

The following named gentlemen have held the office of Chief of the Perry Fire Department: Dr. Gilbert R. Traver, who was one of the principal organizers, held the office from the date of organization until his death on July 7th, 1896. He was succeeded, in the order named, by J. Harry Watson, J. W. Dennison Olmsted, Patrick J. O'Leary, Elmer Lee, Fred Blanck, Frank A. Coleman, Adelbert D. Campbell and Myron J. Kershaw.

PERRY'S GREATEST CONFLAGRATION

broke out on the afternoon of May 18th, 1891, and consumed all of the buildings between the present site of the First National Bank and the Olin block, which was seriously damaged. It seemed that a small quantity of paper had been ignited in the rear of the clothing store of S. Goldwater & Brother and that an oil barrel had sprung a leak in the rear of W. H. Herron's grocery store, adjoining. Supposing that the fire was out, the clerk went back into the store without any apprehension of danger, but it proved that the fire remained and was driven against the oil by a gust of wind. In a moment, flames leaped up and passed into Herron's store, setting fire to the oil tanks in the rear room. An explosion was the result, and the windows in the front of the store were blown out. The extreme heat from the blazing oil almost instantly burned off the wires of the Bell Telephone Co., thus cutting off telephone communication with the surrounding towns. The Fire Department was promptly on the ground and the Engine Company dropped their suction pipe into the mill pond and the Active Hose Company made quick connection. The Traver Hose Co. attached to the old foundry hydrant, and in a short time two streams were playing upon the flames, but with no preceptible effect. The Chemicals found their way to the rear of the buildings, but were almost instantly driven out by the explosion of the oil. Most of their attention was given to the protection of property and contributed in a large measure to saving the storehouse of M. H. Olin & Son.

When the flames had made such progress as to render it impossible with the means at hand for the local firemen to arrest the conflagration and the indications seemed to be the complete destruction of the business section, telegrams were sent to different points for assistance. Wallace Hose Co. of Castile was the first to reach the scene and soon its hose was at-



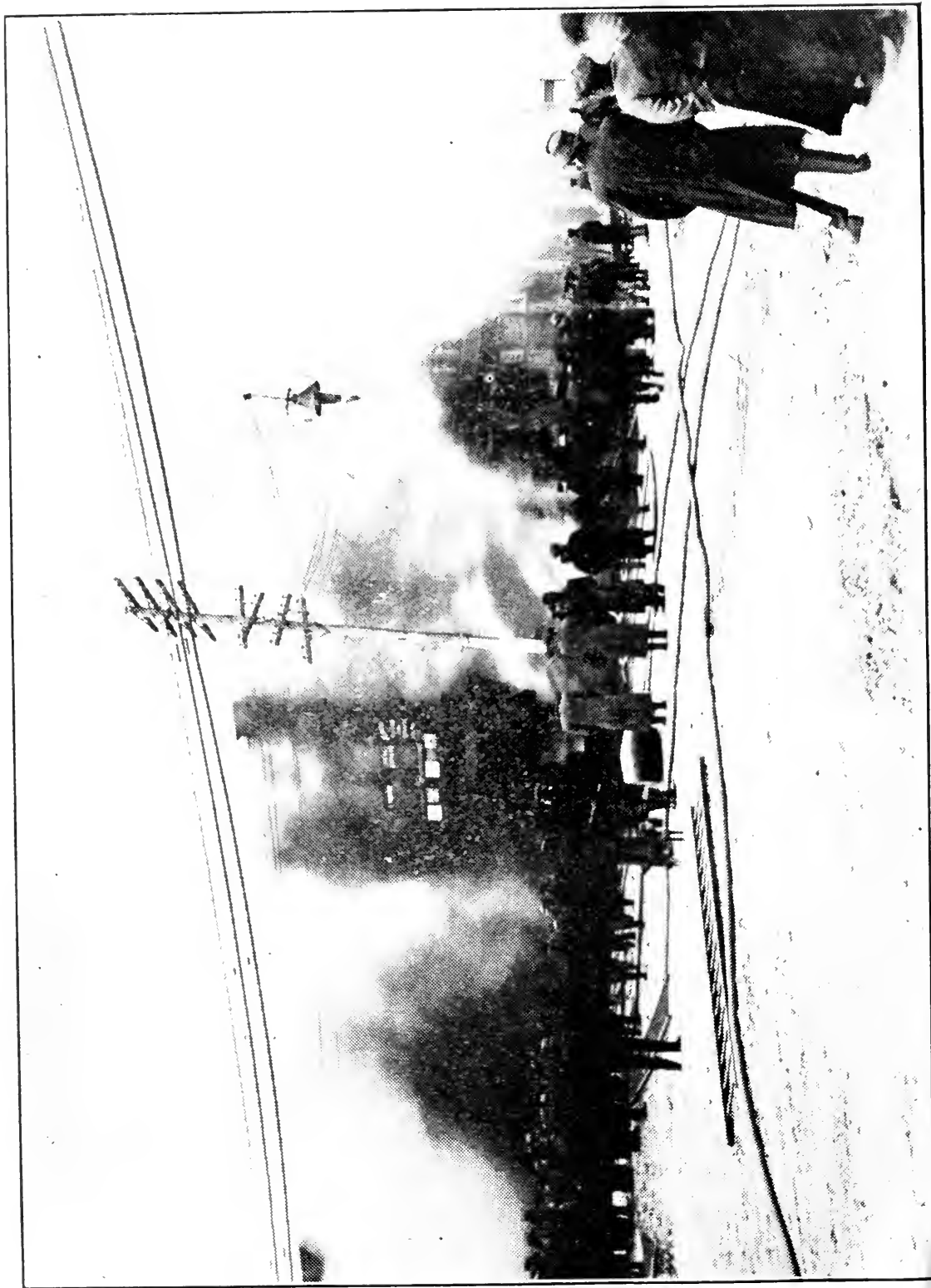
—Photograph by M. N. Crocker.

tached to the hydrant at the Andrus saw mill. McNair Hose Co. of Warsaw came next and coupled at the same place. These two companies did splendid work and were largely instrumental in bringing the fire under control. They were followed by the Hornell Steamer Company, who with their engine, rendered valuable service in the latter part of the fight.

The buildings destroyed in this conflagration were occupied by S. Goldwater & Brother, clothiers; W. H. Herron, grocer; W. A. Gillet & Co., dry goods; Fred Seeger, clothier; C. S. Smith & Co., shoe dealers; M. H. Olin & Son, hardware; M. A. Lovejoy, law office; H. M. Scranton, dentist; C. C. Lewis, picture framing; Gates & Handyside, dressmakers; Olin Opera House. The approximate fire loss was \$100,000, with insurance of about \$56,000.

Three years later, on Oct. 10th, 1894, Perry firemen reciprocated Warsaw's kindness by responding to call for help from that place, where the business section was threatened with destruction by fire. Perry's chemical, both hose carts and the hand engine were loaded on the train and made the run to Warsaw in 45 minutes. The Perry boys did good work and were credited with great assistance in subduing the fire.

Other important fires in and near the village were: March 22, 1894, Dow's warehouse, loss \$4,500; June 15, 1900, at Caleb Tarplee's furniture store; Aug. 27, 1901, Andrus' saw mill; Dec. 14th, 1901, Jacob Schmidt's bakery; Aug. 4th, 1902, Perry Knitting Co.; May 13, 1904, Silver Lake Assembly, \$15,000 loss; April 2d, 1905, Hatch property; April 27th, 1906, Silver Lake Assembly, \$3,000 loss; Sept. 23d, 1906, Silver Lake Assembly, \$5,000 loss; March 7th, 1910, Garrison block, containing Hovey's Grocery, Natural Gas Supply House, Lovejoy's law office. Supervisor Bussey's office, E. J. Webster's real estate office, loss about \$14,000; July 15th, 1911, grand stand at the fair grounds, loss \$3,000; June 4th, 1912, plant of Perry electric



Light Co., loss \$20,000; Ewart & Lake, loss \$11,000; W. H. Hawley, Jr., loss \$1200; June 15, 1913, Farina & Co., Polish Club and Rosinski's residence, total loss \$5,000; May 10, 1914, Silver Lake Assembly, total loss about \$5,000.

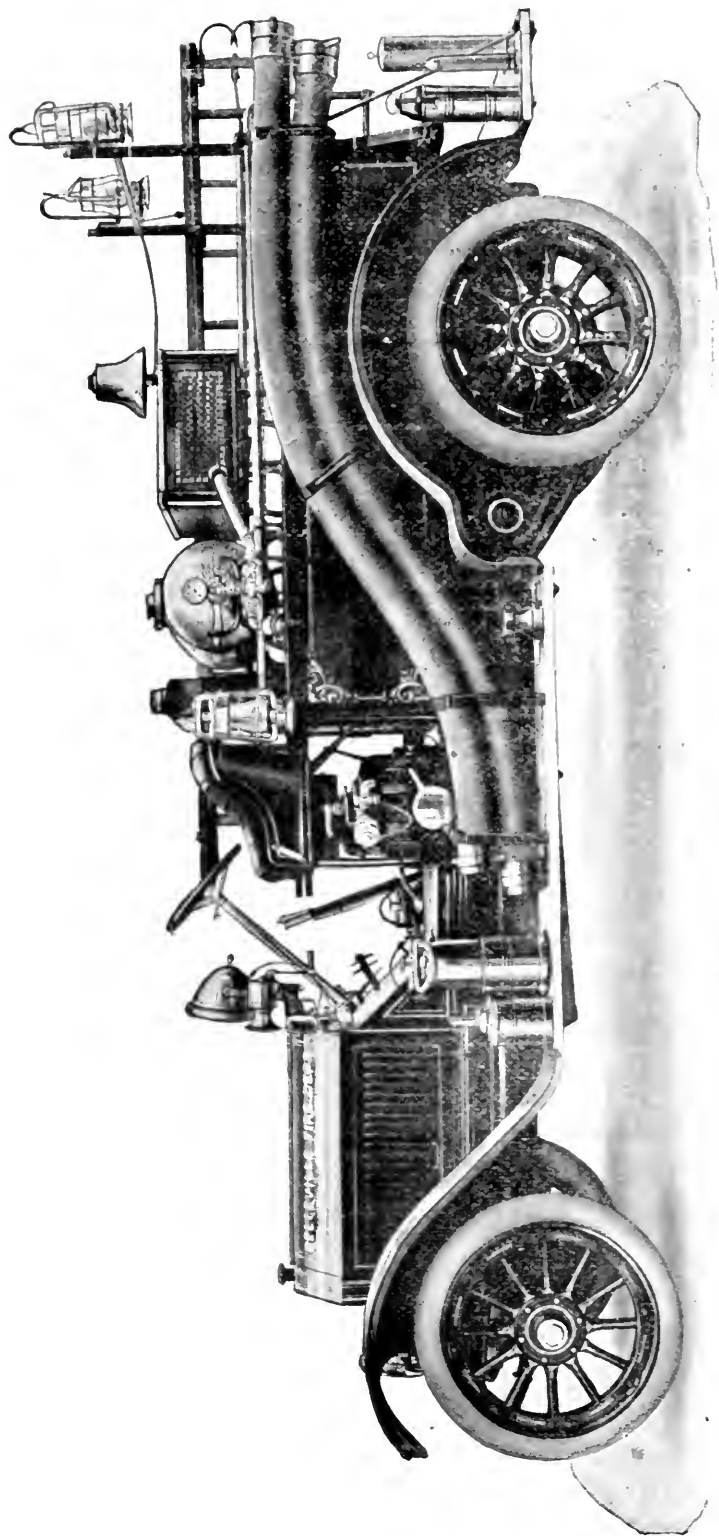
THE MOTOR TRUCK

On Nov. 23d, 1914, at a special election the taxpayers voted to raise \$4,500 by taxation for the purpose of buying a triple combination motor fire truck. To this sum was added about \$3,000 raised in private subscriptions by the Citizen's Chemical Co. At the election there were 332 votes cast, 254 for the proposition and 77 against; one void. A larger vote was polled at this election involving an expenditure of \$4,500 than when the proposition to raise \$30,000 for a new Fire Department building and village hall was voted upon.

The Citizens' Chemical Co. worked zealously in promoting the motor truck proposition, and the special committee, of which Ralph S. Baker was chairman, accomplished a splendid work in securing private pledges of \$3,000. Of this amount, the Citizens' Chemical Co. guaranteed \$500.

The contract for the truck was awarded to the American LaFrance Fire Engine Co. of Elmira, N. Y., on Feb. 15th, 1915, and the truck was officially accepted by the Village Trustees at a public test made on July 24th of the same year.

During the year 1910, agitation began for a suitable new building for Fire Department headquarters. The old frame building near the culvert on the east side of Main street, which housed the apparatus on the ground floor, with a tool room and lock-up in the basement, and two rooms on the second floor, was considered by the firemen as inadequate quarters for the five companies of the village, and they advocated a new build-

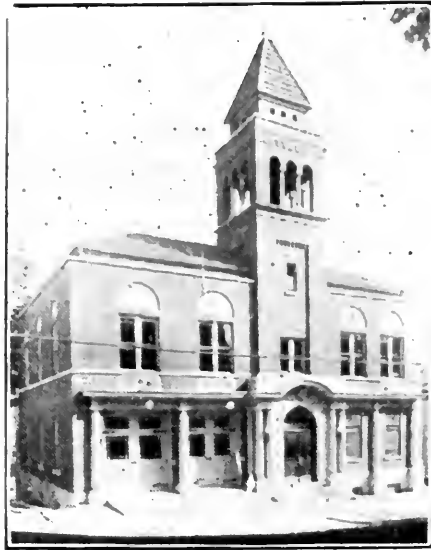


ing that would be more acceptable for their requirements and convenience. This agitation was continued for several months when, on June 21st, 1910, a special election was held to vote upon a proposition to expend not to exceed \$30,000 for a new Fire Department building. There were 226 votes cast, of which 155 were in the affirmative, 62 in the negative, and 9 blank. Several sites were under discussion, the existing location near the culvert and the Hildum property on Main street, a short distance south of Gardeau street, being the most favored. As the matter was discussed and plans were outlined, the Village Board of Trustees took into consideration the various demands for better facilities for village organizations.

The State Department had condemned the existing lock-up and had notified the village officials of their obligation to provide proper and safe quarters for prisoners. The village clerk's office and trustees' room were in rented quarters, and as the matter was considered by them in all of its bearings upon future as well as present needs, they reached the unanimous conclusion that in the long run it would be wisdom and economy to provide a building that would accommodate all of the departments of the village under one roof. The reason for their conclusion was that in addition to the fact that the clerk's office and trustees' room were in rented quarters, the building of a new lock-up was imperative, and to purchase a site and erect a lock-up as a separate building would require a separate heating system and involve other expense in maintenance. To combine all departments in one building therefore seemed to them to be the wisest and most economical purpose.

Plans were prepared by F. W. Kirkland, architect, of Rome, N. Y., and on May 17th, 1912, contract was let to Jones & Dennison of Hornell for the construction of a brick and tile fire-proof building at their bid of \$25,843.00. Changes and additions were made to the original plan to meet the desires of

the firemen and to increase the facilities, which finally provided a room for each of the five fire companies on the ground floor, in the rear of the large room for the apparatus, also office for the village clerk, with large fire-proof vault for the village records; room for the Village Trustees, toilet rooms, etc. In the basement a large tool room for the Street Department, an office for the Police Department, an office for the Street Superintend-



ent, a Justice Court room, vagrant room, detention room for women prisoners, and lock-up with steel cells in the rear. On the second floor a large assembly room for meetings of the Fire Department, coat rooms and toilet rooms for men and women, large room for banquets or parties, kitchen with full equipment, dishes, silverware, etc.

Bonds were issued for \$25,000 and the old frame building was sold for \$1500. The several changes made in the original plan involved an additional expense, and on July 7th, 1913, a proposition was submitted for the raising of an additional \$11,000 to complete the building. There were 204 votes cast,

of which 126 were in the affirmative, 67 in the negative, and 11 blank. The cost of the building, including the jail equipment, heating and plumbing plant, etc., totaled \$41,000.

The building is complete in all of its appointments, commands the admiration of all who see it, and contractors and others who have examined it have stated that it represents 100 cents on every dollar expended upon it.

CHAPTER XX

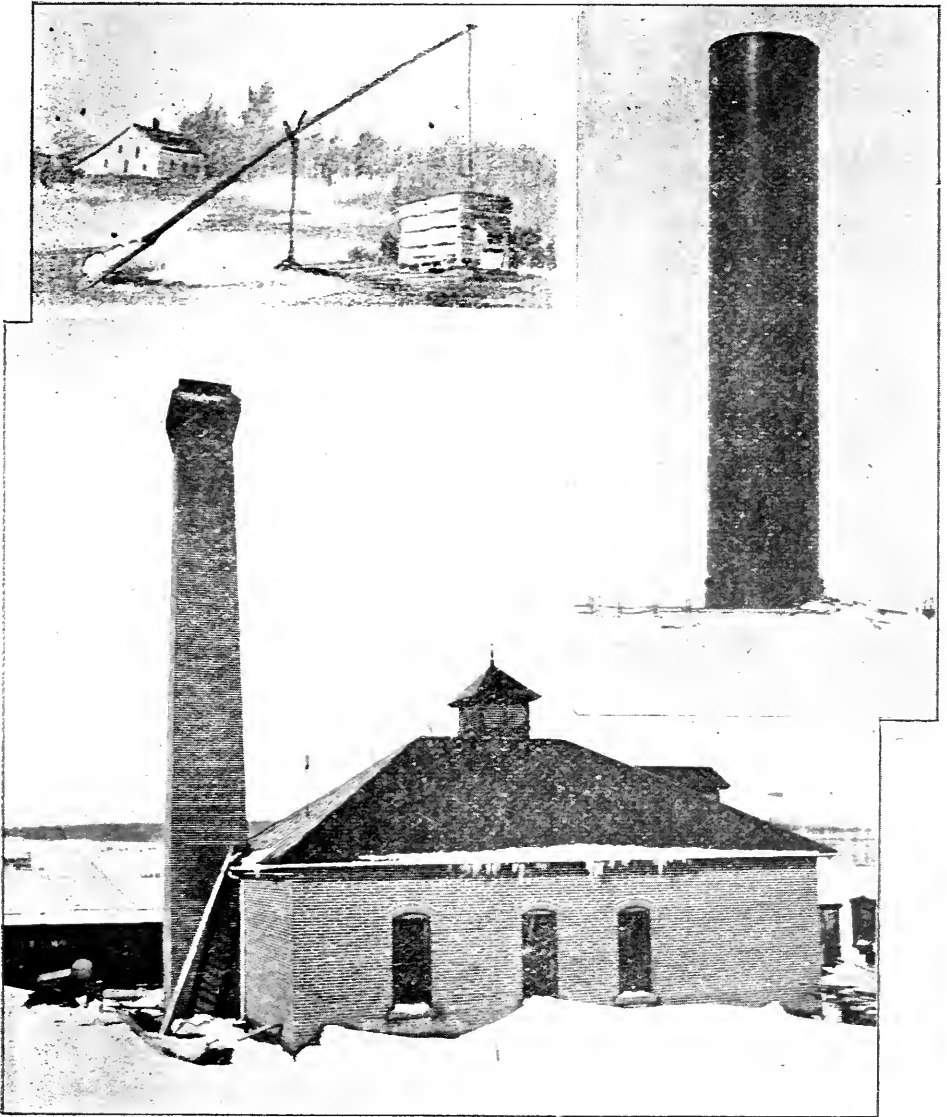
Agitation for and Installation of Municipal Water Works System— Difficulties Encountered and Overcome—It's Success Beyond Expectations of the Most Sanguine Advocates.

The costly fire of 1891, referred to in the last chapter, inspired considerable discussion of the necessity for an adequate system of fire protection, but the temporary agitation of the matter ended in discussion. The fire at Warsaw three years later revived the interest, but no definite steps were taken. On March 27th, 1895, the Village of Canaseraga suffered a fire loss of \$125,000 because of lack of proper protection and its business section was practically wiped out. In an editorial comment in the Perry Record of April 3d, 1895, the writer said:

“Perry can take a lesson from Canaseraga's misfortune. While this place is favored in many respects and we have an ample supply of water for fire protection in portions of the village, there are other portions where there is practically no fire protection whatever. And while we regret to say it, we must admit that had a fire occurred during the recent severe weather, when the water supply from the lake was cut off, the firemen would have been powerless to fight it and a conflagration would have been a certain result. We do not wish to be classed as a ‘calamity howler’ by any means, but it is a fact that Perry needs better fire protection, such as would be afforded by a good system of water works. This is a subject for thoughtful consideration and one that should be acted upon before we have such another costly lesson as Canaseraga has just experienced. Let the matter be investigated, that Perry may take its place among the towns that are up-to-date in the way of proper fire protection.”

Canaseraga's misfortune brought fresh to the mind the experience of Perry in 1891, and the necessity of some action was

impressed upon the minds of public spirited citizens. The Village Board of Trustees was composed at that time of the following named: T. H. Bussey, president; W. D. Page, S. A.



Hatch, C. H. Toan and C. A. Carmichael. C. M. Smith was clerk. Mr. Smith took the initiative in urging the Board to

take preliminary steps to learn what was best to do, and the suggestion met with a ready response on the part of the members of the Board.

On May 13th, 1895, E. Delevan Smalley of Syracuse came to Perry at their request, and as an engineer made an investigation of springs hereabouts and the lake as a source of supply for a water system. A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on the evening of the same day to hear his report and suggestions. It was decided that the Board act as a committee to take active measures to learn the sentiment of the majority of citizens; to submit blank contracts for supplying water to citizens; to learn the probable amount of revenue that would be derived. If enough revenue was assured to pay interest on the cost of a water system and the expense of its operation, it was decided to submit to voters the question of bonding the village in a sufficient sum to furnish a plant to be owned by the village.

In the local newspapers of May 22d, 1895, the Trustees published a statement of nearly one column in length, giving their conclusions in brief, followed by the names of those who had signed contracts for yearly use of water for a term of years, viz: Perry Knitting Co., \$25; M. H. Olin, \$25; W. D. Page, \$18; G. K. Page, \$18; J. C. Lillibridge, \$12; G. M. Traber, \$10; Charles Wise, \$10; Dr. C. R. Calkins, \$10; W. T. Olin, \$10; C. D. Barber, \$10; J. H. Owen, \$10; Jacob Schmidt, \$10; B. F. Rollah, \$10; J. W. Olin, \$10; S. Goldwater, \$10; C. G. Clarke, \$10; J. E. Cole, \$7; Jenks & Bliss, \$5; W. H. Herron, \$5; Citizens Bank, \$5; C. M. Smith, \$5; M. H. Olin & Son, \$5; First National Bank, \$5; Albert Richards, \$5. Total, \$250. Those contracts had been easily secured during the time intervening between the visit of Engineer Smalley and the publication of their statement, and further revealed the strength of the sentiment in favor of the movement.

On Monday, June 3d, 1895, the voters of Warsaw (which was supplied with water by an inadequate private system) decided at a special election by a vote of 216 to 35 in favor of a municipal water works system. On Sunday, June 9th, Wm. Sullivan and Henry Newton, employees at the salt plant, discovered a fire about 2 p. m. in some shavings at the plant, and by their quick and timely action prevented a fire that would have seriously damaged if not destroyed the buildings. These experiences further strengthened the sentiment in favor of adequate protection.

Naturally, there was considerable diversity of opinion regarding the best method to be taken. The volunteer firemen had done splendidly effective work with the existing facilities and there were people who felt that what we had was good enough for a long time to come, ignoring the danger to property situated outside of the reach of the ponds. Others said that they were opposed to bonding the village, which amounted to the same as placing mortgages upon homes as a result of an affirmative vote. They were in accord with several of Perry's most substantial and conservative business men of advanced years whose opinions were held in high respect, who favored the construction of a system by private capital, thus avoiding the necessity of bonding the village and taking the risk of making the project a financial success. They looked upon the plan of a municipal system as a visionary scheme on the part of a group of young men who were over enthusiastic and whose judgment and experience were not sufficiently matured to be wise or safe to trust. As the agitation of the matter grew in strength, naturally a feeling of bitterness developed between two factions. The sincerity of the opponents was not doubted, nor was that of those who favored the project. However, in the heat of the arguments there were a few who questioned the motives of some of those on either side. Exaggerations were

made pro and con, upon theory instead of knowledge. Stories were circulated that wells and cisterns would be condemned to force people to use the city water; that a system would cost twice as much or more than was estimated. It caused a line-up of the middle-aged men of the village against the younger element, the late M. H. Olin being practically the only prominent one of the middle-aged class of our citizens who separated himself from his close associates and aligned himself with the young men who were fighting for a municipally owned water system. While optimism possibly in an extreme influenced the younger men, yet they were sincere in their belief in the benefits that would accrue and in the certainty of its financial success as well. There was in fact a time when they were tempted to give up the fight for what they believed to be the best interest of the village and show their own faith in the project by organizing a stock company for the purpose of constructing a privately owned water system for supplying water for fire protection and domestic purposes. They learned that such companies secured from villages for fire protection, contracts for a period of years for \$25 to \$50 per hydrant per year, which at the lowest figure would yield them \$2,000 per year for fire protection alone for 80 hydrants, as proposed. But profiting by the experience of the neighboring village of Warsaw, as well as others that were either advocating or changing from private to municipal ownership, they made their fight to win on that issue, for the larger purpose of the public good. This is not an idle statement, for the writer has personal and intimate knowledge of the fact stated.

Engineer J. F. Witmer, of the firm of Voorhees & Witmer of Buffalo, was engaged to make a preliminary survey of the situation, and he recommended Silver Lake as the proper source of an unfailing supply for fire protection and domestic purposes, the water being in his opinion best adapted for all uses, and estimated the cost of a complete system at \$40,000.

Strong objection was raised to using the water from Silver Lake, as being detrimental to existing water powers, which would have to be indemnified for any injury, inviting extended legal complications and probably involving heavy expense, also because it was believed by some that it would be undesirable for domestic services, etc.

A special election to vote upon the proposition was called for July 5th, 1895, at the Fire Department building, from 11 o'clock a. m. to 4 p. m.

In its issue of June 26th, under the heading "What Shall We do?" the Perry Record said editorially:

"The question of water works for the village having been agitated for some time past, the Board of Trustees have decided to put the question to the taxpayers in order to get an expression of the people. While each member of the Board is in favor of such a project, and while under the law the Board would have a right to grant a franchise for the construction of a system for fire protection, they decided that the people's voice should be heard in the matter. It is their opinion that none of the people's money should be spent until the people decide that they are in favor of the project.... The Trustees have decided to submit the question to the people as to whether there shall be a municipal ownership—profiting by the experiences of other villages, notably Warsaw and Canandaigua.... If it will pay a company of men to construct and operate a system of water works it will also pay a municipality.... If a company can operate at a profit, so can a municipality."

To be certain as to the quality of Silver Lake water the Trustees submitted samples to S. A. Lattimore, Professor of Chemistry at the Reynolds Laboratory, University of Rochester. He made a careful and extended analysis and under date of July 27, 1895, submitted a detailed report, accompanied by notes stating his opinions, the closing paragraph of which said:

“The present freedom of this water from drainage pollution, as demonstrated at every point in the analysis, is most satisfactory, and if efficient measures are instituted and maintained to protect the lake from future contamination, the Village of Perry may be justly and sincerely congratulated upon possessing one of the purest supplies in the country.”

The Trustees also submitted from W. B. Wilson of Buffalo, a contractor, a proposition to construct a complete system, according to designs prepared by Voorhees & Witmer, for the sum of \$39,675.00, and to furnish bond for faithful performance of the work.

The statement having been made that such a system as proposed would cost \$75,000 or more, the Trustees gave their pledge that if it could not be constructed for \$40,000 they would not undertake the work.

One of the determined opponents of the proposition had carefully prepared a circular letter to the voters, setting forth arguments against the question, and took it to another opponent to read and offer suggestions. The reading was heard by another in the same office, who was supposed to be in opposition, but who was in favor of it, and as soon as possible he told one of the village officials that a strong anti-water works circular would be mailed to every voter so that he would receive it in the morning of the day of the special election. The official immediately took steps to learn where the circular letter was to be printed and through a traveling printer who was at that time working in the place, secured a proof copy of the circular. He then called the Village Trustees together, and with the matter before them they prepared a complete answer in detail to each of the arguments set forth by the opponents. They arranged for having it put in type and printed that night, and while that was being done, they busied themselves during the night in directing envelopes to every voter, so that when he received

the anti circular in the morning mail he would also receive at the same time their reply in detail. That proved to be a splendid coup and probably saved the day, for the reason that the anti circular was unsigned and its authorship was not known, while the reply was signed by each member of the Board of Trustees and its clerk, creating consternation in the camp of the opponents who had so carefully planned their work in expectation of complete ignorance of it on the part of those in favor of the project.

At the election there were three boxes provided for the ballots, one for taxpayers, one for non-taxpayers, and one for the husbands of women taxpayers. The result showed: Taxpayers for, 124; against, 73. Non-taxpayers for, 42; against, 4. Husbands of women taxpayers for, 19; against, 5. The favorable majority was 103.

There was a rousing celebration of the victory on the evening of the 5th, when firecrackers were set off in large quantities, the Band was brought out, and with music, parade, Roman candles and salutes by the gun squad, the victors gave vent to their enthusiasm and joy.

In its issue of July 10th the Perry Record made the following prophecy in its editorial comment upon the victory:

“We predict that the water works system will prove to be a profitable investment, and when it has been completed and given a fair test our citizens would not be without it for double the cost.”

How well that prophecy has been fulfilled, beyond the most sanguine expectations of even its promoters, Perry people know.

The satisfaction with the victory achieved was short-lived, however, as it was soon learned that there was a question of the legality of the election, for the reason that a new election law had taken effect on May 29th, 1895.

Previous to calling the election, the Board of Trustees had consulted attorneys in Warsaw as to the proper method of procedure and were advised to conduct it under the existing law, apparently unaware of the change effective on May 29th. Warsaw, Painted Post, Dundee and Williamsville had voted the same as Perry and were in the same predicament.

Realizing that if the election held was not legal, they would be unable to float any bonds, the Trustees consulted Theodore Bacon, Esq., of Rochester, an attorney of extended experience on all such matters, and they were advised by him that the only safe way was to submit the proposition at another election, according to the provisions of the new law.

Acting upon the advice of Attorney Theodore Bacon, the Board of Trustees called another election to vote upon the proposition, on Friday, Aug. 2d, 1895, without any superstitious fear of Friday as a day of defeat. Strong arguments in opposition were printed and circulated by those who were against the plan, setting forth figures to show the probable failure of a water works system as a sufficient revenue producer. Notwithstanding the persistent antagonism, advocates of the proposition were active in their efforts to maintain the favorable sentiment as shown by the original vote, but as it seemed to be a foregone conclusion that the decision would be ratified, not the same degree of vigor was put forth by those favorable as in the first campaign, nor was there as much effort to get out the vote. Only those voters whose names appeared upon the last assessment roll of the village were permitted to cast their ballots at the Aug. 2d, election, at which there were 189 votes cast, showing 114 affirmative and 70 negative, a majority of 44 in favor of the proposition. There was a quiet acceptance of the decision and the Village Trustees planned to act upon it as rapidly as possible.

Attorney Bacon gave his opinion that there was no question of the legality of the second election and advised the Board of Trustees to proceed with their plans in accordance with the authority given to them by the favorable majority vote. Acting upon the advice, the Board went ahead with their preparations and soon advertised for sealed proposals for construction of the system, to be submitted on Sept. 10th, 1895, not later than 7 o'clock p. m. Bids were asked for the supply of pipe for water mains, as follows: 408 feet 12 inch; 7,180 feet 10 inch; 1,800 feet 8 inch; 24,984 feet 6 inch; 10,176 feet 4 inch; also for 80 hydrants; 93 gate valves and boxes; brick pumping station; 2 boilers; 2 pumps, each of one million gallon capacity; one steel stand-pipe 75 feet high and 15 feet in diameter.

In response to the calls for proposals, about 30 representatives were present to submit their bids for material. The original plans called for 7 1/4 miles of water mains, which it was decided at this time to increase to 9 miles, in order to give fire protection to a greater territory. After considering the several bids and the merit of the material offered, the Board decided to accept the bids of the Chattanooga Cast Iron Pipe and Foundry Co. for water mains, and to install Ross valves and Ludlow hydrants, and an order was placed for the water mains, that pipe might be shipped to allow prompt beginning of the work.

The bond issue of \$40,000 authorized was awarded to W. E. R. Smith of New York City at a premium of \$1212.00 and with his acceptance came instructions to have the bonds printed. His registered letter of acceptance was received in a morning mail, but satisfaction was soon changed to consternation when shortly after noon of the same day the Village Trustees received a telegram from the bond buyer, as follows:

“Taxpayers will contest legality of election. Bonds not acceptable at any price. Letter follows.”

The letter of explanation which followed and was received

the next day, contained an enclosure of a letter written to the bond buyer by active opponents of the proposition and signed by two of them. It stated that taxpayers would contest the legality of the election and the threat accounted for the cancellation by the bond buyer, who naturally did not care to make the investment with the prospect of becoming a defendant in a law suit in consequence.

It made the outlook gloomy for the Trustees and the friends of the proposition. After two elections had been held, in each of which there was a good margin in favor of the matter, it looked as though it was the purpose of the opponents to override the decision of the voters, if possible. The Trustees immediately held a conference, at which a few of their friends were present to discuss the situation and exchange opinions. With the expectation that the matter had been settled by the votes of the people and there would be no further embarrassing opposition, the Trustees had ordered pipe for the mains to the amount of \$15,000 worth, which was probably on the way. A few gleams of humor lighted the gloom of the gathering when it was suggested that if the worst came the pipe might be used by Trustees Toan and Carmichael for draining their farms, as it appeared that the Trustees were individually as well as collectively liable for the amount, and those two could thus help the others out of the predicament, as the others had no way to use the pipe. It was better to smile than to weep, notwithstanding the seriousness of the situation.

After discussion and general agreement it was decided to send the Village President T. H. Bussey to New York to confer with Mr. Smith, the bond buyer, and see if he could not get a reconsideration of the cancellation after fully explaining the two elections and the assurances given to the Trustees by Attorney Bacon. If not, he was authorized to sell the bonds else-

where, if possible, as the Trustees decided not to be scared out of the fight.

On the second day after his departure, during which time it can be understood that the Trustees were on the anxious seat, a telegram was received from Mr. Bussey, asking: "Shall I sell bonds at par, buyer to take all chances? Answer quick." The Trustees immediately called another conference, to which a few friends and workers were asked, for an exchange of opinions and decision. After discussing the matter in all of its bearings, the clerk asked each one present, separately, "What do you advise?" Each one replied: "Sell." Before they had adjourned, Mr. Bussey became so anxious in waiting for a reply that he called by telephone from New York to learn what was the decision. He was told to go ahead and sell, which he succeeded in doing to the firm of Benwell & Everett at par.

Through the late Mr. Joseph Wyckoff of Kalamazoo, Mich., the Trustees had learned of the consolidation of the Kalamazoo Electric Light Co. and the Street Railway Co., which gave them an opportunity to buy two boilers in first-class condition for the pumping plant at a saving of \$800, but by the time they got their difficulties untangled the boilers had been sold. With the loss of over \$1200 premium on the bonds and the \$800 above referred to, and with the legal and other expenses they were obliged to incur in overcoming the opposition the total amounted to about \$3,000.

The contract for construction of the system was let to W. B. Wilson of Buffalo, who began work with a good sized force of men, a few over 50, on Wednesday, Oct. 9th, 1895. Land had been purchased of Mrs. Laura Saxton on the shore of the lake, for the pumping station, and a site above on the hill, of Samuel Sharp, for the stand-pipe. The pumping plant called for a brick building 38x44 feet, to accommodate two 80-horse boilers and two Worthington pumps, each of one million gal-

lon capacity each 24 hours, thus making a duplicate system. Mr. Wilson engaged local people to do teaming, furnish material and supplies and do other work, to the extent that was possible, and for the foreign laborers that were engaged to do the trenching he secured the Heath blacksmith shop (standing on the present site of the Episcopal Church) for their living quarters. At the beginning of the second week he added 28 men to his force of trench diggers and made rapid progress with the work. On Oct. 30th, just 21 days after the work was begun, he had a considerable part of the trenching done, pipe laid and the back-filling completed on several of the streets, and nearly all of the brick work was completed at that time on the pump station.

The rumor had gained circulation that it was the intention of opponents of the water system to serve an injunction upon the Village Trustees when they attempted to lay the pipe from the pumping station into the lake and thus prevent operation of the system. The Trustees apparently paid no attention to the story, keeping their plans to themselves, and when they were ready to proceed with that part of the work they laid the "intake" pipe on Sunday, Nov. 3d, 1895, and thus prevented service of any injunction, which could not be done on that day. All of their arrangements had been so carefully guarded that the work was carried out without a hitch.

A submarine diver had been engaged to assist in the work, and he made an examination of the best location for the source of supply. The specifications called for the location of the intake pipe 26 feet below the surface of the lake, and in examining the conditions the diver reported three springs not far apart, bubbling from the bottom of the lake. To reach them he found that measurements showed that it would require 60 feet more of pipe than specified, but it was decided advisable to provide for it. By doing so the mouth of the intake pipe came

about four feet to the left of the largest spring and near to the other two.

A locomotive belonging to the B.R. & P. Railroad furnished power by cable attachment for the operation of a plow with which the diver dug a trench two feet deep in the bottom of the lake in two hours' time. When completed, the 12-inch pipe was ready, jointed in two lengths, and carried out on barrel floats and lowered to place. In this manner 312 feet of pipe was laid in the lake and connection from the end to the pump station made afterward, the total distance being over 400 feet. At the mouth of the pipe was attached a 900 pound casting covered with a strainer. The lake at that time was five feet below high water mark.

On Nov. 13th all the pipe laying and back-filling was completed, except on Main and Water streets and from the pump station to the Assembly grounds. Rock on Water street required so much blasting that Supt. McKay was delayed in connecting the line on Water and Main streets beyond the time he expected to have it completed.

On many of the streets, people had connections made with their residences in order to have use of the water as soon as it was turned into the mains, and the early indications showed popular interest and gave promise of success.

At 1:50 o'clock p. m. on Jan. 1st, 1896, blasts from the steam whistle at the pump station gave the signal that water was being pumped into the mains and at the end of two hours it was decided to make a test of the system. Hose connections were made with the hydrant at the corner of Main street and Borden avenue and a pressure of 40 pounds was shown. Several leaks developed, as was expected might be the case, and attention was given to repairing them during the following week.

The standpipe having arrived, work on its erection began on Jan. 8th. On the same day another test was made of the system, the pressure being raised to 80 pounds. Under this pressure only six leaks were discovered, which was considered a remarkable showing. These were soon repaired and the system was in operation, with pumping direct into the mains until the erection of the standpipe was completed, which was within a short time afterward.

A statement issued and published by the Board of Water Commissioners, dated Nov. 16, 1896, less than a year after installation, showed that 136 connections had been made with the system, giving an annual income of \$1,312.15. The statement showed a bond issue at the first sale of \$40,000, as had been pledged, but a second sale of \$3,000 in bonds to cover the loss that had been incurred by reason of the opposition previously referred to. An itemized statement was made of all receipts and expenditures and in connection with the statement the Commissioners called attention to the fact while other Boards of Water Commissioners commonly paid their clerk from \$800 to \$1500 per year for services, their work had been done without compensation by their clerk, C. M. Smith. The statement was signed by the existing board, viz: C. H. Toan, President; W. D. Page, Geo. B. Tallman, Frederick H. Cole and S. Albert Hatch, Commissioners.

The growth of the business was rapid from the beginning, as the value of the system was soon demonstrated, both as a means of adequate fire protection and of its convenience to householders.

The income met the interest on the bonds and provided a surplus, from which in 1910 an addition was made to the pump station, a new pump and condenser were installed at a total cost of over \$10,000. Beside this, in 1915 it provided for the retirement of \$13,000 of the original water bonds.

As far back as April 13, 1875, there had been some agitation in favor of fire protection, and during that period it was proposed to lay water mains on Main street, but nothing definite materialized until the time referred to in the opening of this chapter.

CHAPTER XXI

Successful Campaign for Sewer System Gave Village City Conventions and Largely Increased Revenues from Municipal Water Works—Legal Contest Won by Village.

Early in 1900, sentiment in favor of a sewer system for the village having developed to some extent, a bill was introduced in the State Legislature in response to a petition from the Village Board of Trustees, putting the streets and highways of the village under their supervision and providing that the village might bond itself for a sewer system under the General Law.

Engineer W. J. White of Buffalo visited Perry on April 12th in response to a request from the Trustees and looked over the situation for the purpose of giving them information in regard to the matter. He met with them in the evening and after discussion of the matter it was decided to get out dodgers inviting the people to have an informal election at the Fire Department building on Tuesday, April 17th, from 10 o'clock a. m. to 3 p. m., to learn the sentiment regarding the question. Among other information, the dodgers specifically stated that

“This election will be entirely informal and merely that we may learn how the taxpayers feel in regard to the question of a sewer system. If the vote should be favorable, the Trustees will then proceed according to the provisions of the law and follow the expressed wishes of the taxpayers. Plans will be prepared, and if approved by the State Board of Health, the exact cost of a system will be ascertained and the question be submitted for a decisive vote.”

This action started animated discussion and aroused opposition, statements being made that a system would cost anywhere from \$75,000 to \$200,000. The move was made by the

Trustees because the village had doubled in population within ten years, during which time cess pools had been put in by some residents, while others had been permitted to connect with the surface sewers by the Boards of Health. Those conditions, together with the growth of the village made the sanitary situation unfavorable and in the minds of many required corrective measures.

Notwithstanding the plain and specific language of the dodger referred to, it was misinterpreted by some people, who apparently did not understand that the election was entirely informal and thought that their vote was to make a decision. The vote resulted in 77 affirmative and 102 negative.

As the matter became better understood, sentiment in favor of the proposition grew as a result of discussion, and Engineer Charles C. Hopkins of the firm of Knight & Hopkins of Rome, N. Y., came to Perry on June 1st at the request of the Trustees. After looking over the situation carefully he was engaged by the Trustees to make a survey of the corporation and a map for a proposed system, to be submitted to the State Board of Health for its approval.

On June 27th, Dr. S. Case Jones, a State Commissioner of Health, visited Perry and accompanied by the local Board of Health he made an inspection of the conditions. The fact that householders had been permitted to connect with the surface sewers and that the outlet running through the village was used to a considerable extent he declared to be a menace to public health; that the proper method would be to provide a sanitary sewer system, otherwise it would be necessary for the State Board of Health to take action in the matter. He reported such findings to the Health Department as a result of his visit.

The map and plans made by Knight & Hopkins were completed in the Fall of 1900 and on Nov. 15th were sent to the State Board of Health for approval.

The matter then rested until the Spring of 1901. The plans for the sewer system having been approved by the State in the meantime, a petition was signed by the required number of taxpayers and presented to the Village Board of Trustees, requesting submission of the proposition to a vote.

In response to this petition a call dated April 3d was published for a special election to be held on April 19th, to vote upon a proposition for a sewer system to cover the corporation (excepting the lake district) at a minimum expense of \$40,000 and a maximum expense of \$54,000. The Trustees were: T. H. Bussey, President; J. C. Lillibridge, A. L. Aime, C. H. Toan and C. W. Rudd. The clerk was O. N. Bolton.

In a statement published at the time of the call for the election, the Trustees pledged themselves not to construct the system unless it could be done inside of the estimated maximum cost, and to give people an opportunity to get any further information and enlightenment upon the question they had Engineer Hopkins present at a public meeting on the evening of the 18th, to answer any questions that might be asked and to have the matter fully explained.

At the election held on the following day there were 250 votes cast, resulting as follows; Yes, 146; no, 103; blank, 1; a majority of 43 in favor of the proposition.

A notice to contractors was published in the next issue of the local papers, calling for bids to be submitted up to noon of May 6th, for construction of the system. At a special meeting of the Trustees on that day, sealed bids were received, as follows:

Miller & Franklin, Buffalo, \$56,900.00.

Thomas Holahan, Rochester, \$43,433.82.

Coryell Construction Co., Williamsport, Pa., \$51,481.11.

Troy Public Works Co., Utica, \$49,000.00.

W. H. Cookman, Niagara Falls, \$46,657.07.

D. M. Rosser, Kingston, Pa., \$51,140.00.

After considering the matter for a few days and investigating the merits of the bidders, the Trustees let the contract to Richard W. Sherman of Utica, N. Y., who represented the Troy Public Works Co. Mr. Sherman was at that time Mayor of the city of Utica, brother of Vice-President James Sherman.

As Mr. Sherman was not the lowest bidder, there was naturally criticism of their award, but time developed the wisdom of their choice. Mr. Holahan asked questions regarding the specifications which showed that he was not familiar with such work and it was learned that he had never constructed a sewer system complete, his experience at that time being limited to small contract work in Rochester. While Mr. Cookman was found to be experienced and reliable, his financial position at that time was found to be insufficient to stand losses that might be incurred by extraordinary or unforeseen conditions that sometimes arise in the prosecution of such work. Mr. Sherman was found to be experienced and with ample financial standing to meet any losses without abandoning the work. For those reasons the Trustees made the award to Mr. Sherman and left the justice and wisdom of their action to be determined by the outcome.

Work on the system began on May 31st, with the expectation of its completion by November 1st. There was a good sized force of laborers at the outset, which soon was increased to 200 men.

Bids for the sale of bonds for the construction of the system were advertised to be received not later than June 6th, when ten firms were represented and there was spirited bidding for the issue. They were sold to M. A. Stein of New York at his bid of 101.24 for 3½% bonds, the premium amounting to

\$669.00. The sale at that price was considered unprecedented, nothing having ever been known to approach that figure in the State outside of the cities, and it was a testimonial of the standing of this community. In this connection it may be worthy of note that the Trustees at no time had any superstition, as the vote on the sewer proposition was held on a Friday, the contract for construction was signed on Friday, work was begun on Friday, and the bonds were sold on Friday.

On the 14th of June a strike was instituted among the workmen, said to have been caused by agitators in the group of about 40 Italians who came from Mt. Morris to work in trenching. They were engaged for a ten-hour day at \$1.50 and struck for an eight-hour day at the same wage, or \$1.75 for a ten-hour day. Operations were suspended and Sheriff Sanford was summoned to prevent any violence. The instigators of the strike were discharged and left town, as did also a group who came from Albany to work on the job, leaving only about 100 men to continue the work. The strike lasted only about a day, but it was some time before the contractor was able to secure the full force desired, and he was obliged to increase the wages in order to hold the men.

Work on the sewer outlet began the last week of October, and all of the trenching on the several streets had been completed by November 1st. An inspection was made during the first week of December, when a few leaks were discovered and repairs were made.

The Board of Trustees prepared a set of sewer regulations and the system was ready for use before Jan. 1st, 1902, a considerable number of property-owners having had connections made with their residences to furnish bath room conveniences, and from that time on, every house constructed in the village has had the connections made.

When the time came for final settlement with Contractor Sherman he presented a bill for extras amounting to nearly \$10,000, his principal claim being that he had not been allowed a sufficient sum for rock excavation. Engineer Hopkins disputed his claim, advising the Trustees that he had made generous allowance for extra rock excavation. He checked up the contractor's list of extras and pointed out to the Trustees the items for which Mr. Sherman was entitled to compensation, but as that showed the amount due in final settlement to be several thousand dollars less than Mr. Sherman claimed, the contractor threatened to sue unless the Trustees accepted his figures.

It was understood that Mr. Sherman lost money on the contract, and the Trustees felt that he might be endeavoring to recoup his loss by presenting his bill for extras. They offered to settle with him at the figures given by their engineer, Mr. Hopkins, but as he was unwilling to do so, there was a deadlock. A few months later, Mr. Sherman brought suit against the Village Trustees in his home county of Oneida. The Trustees applied for a change of venue to Wyoming County, which was afterward granted. Before the case came to trial, however, Mr. Sherman requested the Trustees to meet him in Rochester for a conference, with a view to an amicable settlement without an extended legal contest. They complied with his request and he made several propositions, which the Trustees refused to act upon at that time. They had retained Hon. W. F. Cogswell for their attorney, and he had told them that Mr. Sherman had no case against them. Mr. Cogswell said that Mr. Sherman "didn't have a leg to stand upon" and advised the Trustees not to pay anything more than Engineer Hopkins had recommended. In answer to the question whether it would not be better to settle rather than defend a suit, Mr. Cogswell told the Trustees that if they felt it would be cheaper in the

end to pay Mr. Sherman \$500 in addition to Engineer Hopkins' allowance and thus clean up the matter with a receipt in full for all claims, it was a matter for the Trustees to decide. They notified Mr. Sherman that they would hold a meeting after their return home and would advise him promptly of their decision after it had been reached. A meeting was held the same evening and it was voted to offer Mr. Sherman \$500 above the Engineer's figures, in full settlement of all claims. After much protest, Mr. Sherman agreed to accept the offer and the matter was closed.

The maximum estimate for the system, as previously noted, was \$54,000. Prior to the suit instituted by Contractor Sherman the Trustees had made three semi-annual interest payments on the sewer bonds, a total of \$2,385.00. With other expenses incurred the amount reached about \$3,000. Deducting that sum from the original estimate of \$54,000, the actual cost of the sewer system proper was \$51,000, or \$3,000 less than the maximum estimate. The work was well performed and the installation of the system accomplished what was expected, a material increase in the amount of water rentals and the provision of city conveniences for the residents of the village, with vastly improved sanitary conditions for the conservation of public health.

CHAPTER XXII

Street Lighting, Local Telephone and Natural Gas Systems—Their Rapid Development from Small Beginnings Had Important Part in Promoting Growth of the Village.

Prior to 1877, no action had been taken by the municipality for providing lights for the streets of Perry. Before the time mentioned, however, a few of the more enterprising citizens had installed lamp posts and lights in front of their residences, but these were few and far between, and at night the streets in general presented avenues dark and gloomy.

At a meeting of the Village Board held on Feb. 5th, 1877, Lyman D. Loomis moved that the clerk, R. D. Higgins, draw up a petition asking the Legislature to pass an act granting power to the Board of Trustees of the village to raise money by tax to light the streets and maintain the expense. The motion was carried, and at the Board meeting held on March 5th, the petition was presented and accepted. It was made a law by action of the Legislature, and in October, 1877, an order was given for 26 street lights, to cost \$128.21, and these were placed in the most important locations throughout the village. James L. Wade was engaged as lamp-lighter at \$7.50 per month, but as the number of lamps were gradually increased, the wages were increased to \$30 per month. Mr. Wade was succeeded as lamp-lighter by C. Minot Griffith, Oscar D. Chase and William McKinley. The adoption of this method of lighting the streets added somewhat to the general appearance of the village and was a great convenience to the citizens, although for some time the old-fashioned lantern did not entirely disappear.

PERRY ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY

The Perry Electric Light Company was primarily organized in the early part of 1892, and a franchise was granted to the company by the Village Board of Trustees on July 23d of that year. On Nov. 21st, 1892, the Electric Light Co., opened its plant and turned the current through the wires. Before the close of the year, they were furnishing current for 22 street lights and 400 incandescents. At the present time they are furnishing 93 street lights and approximately 10,000 incandescents, beside power for several of the smaller industries. Perry consumes nearly twice as much electricity as any other town in Wyoming County.

The formal organization of the Company was effected on March 11th, 1893, at which time the following named officers were chosen: President, Milo H. Olin; Vice-President, Henry N. Page; Secretary, Clarence M. Smith; Treasurer, Wm. D. Page; Manager, G. K. Page. None of the persons named is at present identified with the organization, having disposed of their stock at a private sale to Mr. E. L. Phillips of New York and Mr. G. W. Olmsted, of Ludlow, Pa., who hold a majority of all of the stock.

Mr. C. W. Smith was engaged as Manager in 1901, and served in that capacity until June, 1911, when he was succeeded by E. D. Hamlin, who was in charge for a period of a little more than one year. Mr. C. W. Torrey, the present efficient Manager, has served continuously since that time.

On June 4th, 1912, the plant was practically destroyed by a fire which caused a loss of more than \$20,000. The plant was rebuilt as soon as possible, the current in the meantime being supplied by the Tempest Knitting Company.

The Company having acquired franchises in Warsaw.

Gainesville, Castile and Perry, it is the intention in the near future to construct and equip a central power plant and supply all of the towns named from one point, thereby reducing the excessive cost of operating individual plants. A line is under construction from Perry to Silver Springs as a beginning of the project.

The following named are the officers of the Company at the present time: President, G. W. Olmstead; Vice-President, L. P. Benedict, of Perry; Secretary, Henry R. Frost of New York; Treasurer, C. W. Torrey of Perry. These gentlemen also control the Warsaw office.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM

The Perry Electric Light Company gave Perry its first telephone system, and for a period of ten years the two were operated under one management. Early in 1894, the directors canvassed the citizens to ascertain the number of people who would become subscribers to a local independent system. By the last of May, 50 persons had agreed to install telephones at a cost of \$1.50 per month. As this was considered a fair number to begin operations with, the Company ordered a Strowger automatic switchboard, 50 telephone instruments, 22 miles of covered wire, poles and accessories, and on July 18th, 1894, these telephones were placed in service. The Perry Telephone Company was the first independent telephone company in New York State to install the automatic service, which was similar to the type now used by the Federal Company in Buffalo. The system was somewhat experimental at the time and did not give generally satisfactory service. Following is the original list of subscribers:

M. H. Olin & Son, hardware; Perry Knitting Co.; Citizens Bank; First National Bank; Hotel Perry; Silver Lake Railway depot; Walker House, Silver Lake; Silver Lake Assembly; A.

W. Tallman, hardware; M. A. Wilcox, livery; Edgerly House; W. O. Davis, furniture; Hatch & Cole, grocers; W. H. Herron, grocer; S. S. Caswell, grocer; C. G. Martin, coal office; Buffalo Ice Co.; Lewis Hough, milk depot; R. R. Dow, warehouse; J. H. Watson, drug store; Smith, Kennedy & Co., builders; C. Sutherland & Co., monuments; F. L. Howell, furniture; Smith & Ineson, livery; Record office; Herald and News office; Dr. G. R. Traver, Dr. P. S. Goodwin, Dr. A. B. Straight, Dr. Annie H. Pierce, Dr. M. A. King, physicians; Dr. F. H. Cole, dentist; M. H. Olin, C. M. Smith, W. D. Page, Mrs. H. N. Page, Mrs. A. D. Keeney, Mrs. C. T. Wyckoff, Mrs. M. J. Olin, Mrs. C. A. Cleveland, M. A. Wilcox, F. L. Howell, W. B. Tallman, Walter T. Olin, Charles A. Toan, F. B. Smith, G. M. Traber, J. E. Cole, R. T. Tuttle, A. J. Wood, residences.

In 1895 the Strowger switchboard was replaced by a 100-line Hunnings board and instruments. As the business of the company increased, several changes in the switchboard had been made necessary.

For several years previous to the organization of the local system the Bell Company had maintained a long distance station in Perry, for the greater part of the time located in the rear of the shoe store of C. S. Smith & Co. In May, 1901, Mr. E. Stinson and Mr. R. S. Baker were sent to Perry by the Bell Company and a 100-line board was placed in the store; two booths were installed for the central office calls, and the Perry Knitting Co's office was directly connected. The last named was the only subscriber that the Bell Company ever had in the Village of Perry. Mr. Smith relinquished charge of the toll station after several years and a pay station was later installed in Hotel Perry.

In 1903 a connection between the Perry Telephone Co. and the Bell Company was established, giving the local subscribers

facilities for out-of-town service. At that time a "central energy" or common battery switchboard was installed with two operators. By the end of 1904 the subscribers numbered over 300, and the farmers were being given the service as rapidly as possible. In 1915, lines had been extended in every direction from the local office and 86% of those living in the territory were connected with the service. The total number of subscribers at the time referred to was 1240.

The late Charles W. Smith was local manager from Oct. 23d, 1901, until his death in July, 1912. He was succeeded by Ralph S. Baker, the present manager. The Perry Exchange has a State-wide reputation for being one of the best equipped and best managed independent systems in existence. Its officers are: President, C. M. Smith; Vice-President, C. A. Toan; Secretary, L. P. Benedict; Manager, R. S. Baker.

PAVILION NATURAL GAS COMPANY

During the year 1906, people in the vicinity of the neighboring town of Pavilion became possessed with the belief that natural gas could be found in that town, their conclusions being based on indications that seemed to be favorable. After some agitation, a test well was sunk and their expectations were fully realized. The success of the experimental well attracted outside capital, and some time later the Pavilion Natural Gas Company was organized, composed of Pittsburg and other capitalists. A number of other wells were sunk, and success continued to attend the efforts to secure an abundant supply.

The Pavilion Natural Gas Company was granted a franchise by the Village Trustees of Perry on Sept. 23d, 1908, and in the following Summer the gas mains were laid throughout the village, connection with the gas field being made on Dec. 15th, 1909. The Company began operation here with 345 con-

nections, and in the six years succeeding of their local history their business increased remarkably. In 1915 there were 1186 consumers of gas in the Perry district, a larger number than in any other town in the Company's field of operations. A number of the smaller industries are using the gas for power purposes.

The supply comes from wells in the towns of Pavilion and York, the average pressure being about 500 lbs. The supply is furnished to Perry at a pressure of about 60 lbs.

Mr. W. R. Buell was resident manager from October, 1909 to 1910, when he was succeeded by Mr. W. M. Aiken, the present manager.

The Perry district embraces Silver Lake, Perry Center, LaGrange, and as far east as the Pine Tavern.

CHAPTER XXIII

Musical Organizations—Singing Societies, Philharmonics, Bands and Orchestras That Were Features of the Social Life of Perry and Won More Than Local Reputation.

Perry has differed very little from other towns of its size in the matter of music and musicians. In vocal work the town has had the usual quota of singers who were willing to give their time and talent in return for the pleasure that they might derive from that kind of service. "Singing Schools" of the earlier days, and Singing Societies of the later period have been numerous, but were usually short-lived, organizing in the Fall and disappearing after a "grand concert" held in the latter part of the Winter. While Perry has had many good singers, there have been only a few who possessed exceptional voices. Augustus Barton, who sang in the Universalist Church in the early '70's, was considered to possess the best baritone voice in this section of the country, and later, Mrs. E. M. Clarke located in Perry. She possessed a splendid contralto voice and brought with her a reputation won in Brooklyn, New York and Rochester churches. She was a solist of some note and soon won a distinctive position in the community. Mrs. Jenny L. Nobles has been Perry's best known soprano. Her exceptional ability, her position as teacher of music in our High School, and as director of the Presbyterian Church choir for several years, gave her particular opportunities for service and she has probably done more than any other one person to develop local talent along musical lines.

Among the "Singing Societies" may be mentioned the Philharmonics who gave concerts back in the '70's, with M. N. Crocker as director; and a Choral Society with German Sweet as the leading spirit and director. The Perry Choral

Society under the leadership of Prof. VonLiebich of Buffalo, and the Perry Oratorio Society, organized in 1913 and conducted by Mr. J. W. Royce. The last named society sang a better and more difficult class of music than was attempted by its predecessors, and among other noted compositions has rendered "The Crucifixion" twice, "The Messiah" and "The Prodigal Son." Out-of-town soloists assisted in the first two mentioned, the choruses of over eighty voices in each of the oratorios under the direction of Mr. Royce handled their difficult parts exceptionally well. In 1914, the Society in conjunction with several other similar organizations from other towns in this section of the State, sang with the community chorus in a great music festival given in Exposition Park, Rochester. There were about 2000 voices under the direction of Prof. Harry Barnhart and the festival received the highest commendation from the press and the large number of people who heard the rendition of the splendid numbers given.

The vocal music in our churches has been mostly furnished by chorus choirs. However, the distinctive organization that is best remembered by our townspeople as having presented for the greatest length of time the highest grade of music is the former Presbyterian Quartet, composed of Mrs. Jenny L. Nobles, soprano; Mrs. E. M. Clarke, contralto; Mr. W. D. Page, tenor; Mr. G. K. Page, basso; Mrs. W. D. Page, organist. Mr. C. S. Smith succeeded Mr. G. K. Page as basso for several years, several years.

ORCHESTRAS

No records have been found giving any information regarding the orchestras of Perry's earlier days. The first organization of which much is known was the "Chapin Orchestra." Organized in 1853, it began its career with the following named members: Earl Chapin, first violin and leader; M. N. Crocker, second violin; H. A. Barton, flute; Robert Crake,

'cello; John Clark, bass; Miss Addie Walter, piano. The organization seems to have been better than the ordinary, and the class of music played was more or less pretentious for those days and required considerable ability. The overture, "Caliph of Bagdad," was their favorite, although "Gen. Boulanger's March" was a close second. The leader composed a number of their selections, some of which are in existence today. These and other numbers were rehearsed at meetings held in Walker's Hotel. Beside furnishing music for local functions, they appeared at Warsaw and other nearby towns. Earl Chapin left Perry and followed violin making as a business for many years. His instruments became well known and some of them sold for over \$500 each. He served through the Civil War and died in the Soldiers' Home at Milwaukee about the year 1910. Mr. Chapin was the ruling spirit of the Chapin Orchestra, which disbanded at the time he left Perry.

The Silver Lake Orchestra was organized in 1866 by James L. Wade as manager and first violin; Oscar Edgerly, second violin; Clark Edgerly, 'cello; Frank Pritchard, bass. Mrs. Clark Edgerly afterward became pianist, and her husband cornetist of the orchestra, which had an existence of about 20 years, during which period it played engagements at Saxon's Hall at the lake for many seasons and also during the Fall and Winter in many of the surrounding villages.

The most widely known of all orchestra organizations is the little group who began their career in 1893 as a High School orchestra. With a membership of seven, including Mrs. Jenny Nobles as pianist, F. M. Washburn, E. M. Read and L. G. Stainton, violins; L. P. Benedict and C. N. Read, cornets; and Lee H. Cotton, clarinet, the organization began playing for rhetorical, chapel exercises, etc. This line of work, while enjoyed immensely, served to increase the desire of the ambitious youngsters for something better, and they began taking small

engagements at lectures, etc. Their success in this line led to the formation in 1894 of the Casino Orchestra, with the following named as members: E. M. Read, first violin and leader; F. M. Crocker, flute and manager; Lee H. Cotton, clarinet; Cleveland K. Nobles, pianist; C. N. Read, cornet. Mr. Nobles was succeeded as pianist for several years by Seward Edgerly, and there have been many changes in the personnel, but the Casino Orchestra as an organization has been playing for over 20 years and is still in existence. During this period they have played in nearly all of the nearby towns and for four years served as the orchestra at Walker's dance pavilion at Silver Lake. When The Auditorium was opened as a theatre, the Casinos became and remained its orchestra for a period of 14 years, and during the winters of 1898-99-1900, the members played in Buffalo for the University of Buffalo's dances, receptions, etc., under the name of the University of Buffalo Orchestra.

Dr. E. M. Read and Dr. F. M. Crocker are the only members of the original Casino Orchestra who have retained their membership since the beginning, and in the 20 years of their orchestra life they have played together in over 1600 engagements.

For several years previous to this writing, the orchestra has consisted of the following members: Dr. E. M. Read, first violin and leader; Dr. F. M. Crocker, flute and manager; C. Read Clarke, slide trombone; Mrs. E. M. Read, 'cello; Miss Isabelle Cole, piano; F. A. Allen, drums and traps.

BANDS

The first local brass band of which we have any information was known as, "Maxon's Band," organized by Charles Maxon in the year 1857. This band was in existence until the beginning of the Civil War, when it was forced to disband, owing to the greater number of its members withdrawing to join the army.

The "Perry Center Cornet Band" was organized in 1866 by Amos W. Austin upon his return from the Civil War, in which he was a member of the First New York Dragoons Regimental Band. There were 18 members in the local organization, which disbanded in 1869.

In the late '70's an organization was formed among students of Perry Academy and styled itself the "College Band." James E. Crichton was leader and it existed for about two years, but never acquired much proficiency.

The Perry Helicon Band was organized in 1879 by A. W. Austin, who was also leader. Their instruments and uniforms were purchased from the Saranac, Mich., band that had bought the equipment for use in an engagement at the Centennial celebration in Philadelphia in 1876. Disbanding a few years afterward, the local musicians heard of the opportunity to make the purchase at a bargain and secured the firm of Hatch & Cole as financiers for the enterprise. They bought the complete set of instruments, uniforms and band wagon, making an outfit unequalled in any country town in the State. This band drew from the College Band, James E. Crichton, Charles W. Rudd and others of its most capable musicians and materially strengthened its organization. With frequent rehearsals it soon became unusually proficient, developed several solists among its members and gained a wide reputation. For several years it accompanied Erie Railroad excursions annually to various points, participated in several band tournaments, played in many of the surrounding towns during Presidential campaigns, and at the height of the roller skating craze played a season at the Armory Rink in Buffalo. Mr. Austin was succeeded as director by the late Clark Edgerly and after a successful career of a number of years the organization passed into history and the town was without a band for a time.

The members of the Helicon Band remaining in town formed the nucleus for a new organization calling itself "The Citizens' Band of Perry." It was first under the leadership of Clark M. Edgerly, then of Wm. Gilbertson and later of C. W. Rudd. It was re-organized in 1902 with John A. Wright as



JAMES L. WADE
(From a War-Time Picture)

director, a number of skillful musicians having moved into town as a result of our industrial growth. Mr. Wright brought extended experience and soon developed the organization into

a fine concert band with a membership of twenty or more. He won for it a reputation comparable with that of the old Helicon Band in the surrounding section. Later, it again reorganized and its name was changed to the "Perry Military Band," by which title it is known at the present time. Mr. Wright continues to serve as director and his long and faithful service are generally appreciated by the townspeople, who turn out in large numbers during the Summer season to hear the Saturday evening concerts.

Mr. James L. Wade is the only known survivor of Maxon's Band, and with the exception of the College Band, has played continuously in each of the village bands mentioned. Mr. Wade was bugler of Company A, First New York Dragoons, and was also a member of the regimental band, in which he served until the close of the Civil War. He has probably had the largest part in the development of band musicians in this community, and as a snare drummer has a reputation that extends over Western New York.

The Citizens Band of Perry Center was organized in 1911 with a membership of twenty-nine and under the instruction of Prof. Lloyd of Warsaw gained a considerable degree of proficiency. Citizens at the Center erected a band stand in the square and the organization gave a number of concerts, but as its membership decreased the interest lagged and the organization disbanded after an existence of about two and one-half years.

The Polish "White Eagle" Band was organized about the year 1910 among employees of the Perry Knitting Co. and has been an important factor in the social life of the Polish residents of the community. It is attractively uniformed and well equipped otherwise and is a capable musical organization.

CHAPTER XXIV

Secret Organizations—Early Institution of Lodges of Masons and Odd Fellows in Perry—Their Lapses and Reorganization—Present Conditions Flourishing.

Free Masonry is undoubtedly the most ancient institution among secret orders, embracing among its members men of every rank and condition, of every nation and clime, and stands among the first of those institutions established for the improvement of mankind. Its origin may be said to have been lost in remote antiquity. Some writers date its origin further back than the Druidical mysteries; others go back to 1950 B. C. The orders of architecture and their origin and uses, which subject is treated quite extensively in Masonry, had its origin about 1000 B. C. Many writers claim that the mysteries were handed down from Ceres, who introduced them into Athens about 1356 B. C. The popular faith of its disciples ascribes its foundations to circumstances connected with the erection of the first Jewish temple by King Solomon. Written records of meetings extend back only to A. D. 926.

The first provincial Grand Lodge of the United States was established in Boston in 1733. In 1781 the Grand Lodge of New York was instituted, and on March 6th, 1819, granted a charter to Constellation Lodge No. 320, located at Perry, Genesee County, N. Y., authorizing them to confer the first three degrees in Ancient Craft Masonry.

The petitioners were: John Gibb, Levi Benton, Warren Buckland, George Mordoff, James Waterhouse, Thomas Edgerly, Hiram Wright, Charles Tripp, Samuel D. Bishop, James Hammersley, Jared Whitney, John Bowers, and Ebenezer Higgins, Jr. The first officers were: Ebenezer Higgins, W. M.; George Mordoff, S. W.; Charles Leonard, J. W. The first re-

turns to 1820 showed the following additional officers: Thomas Edgerly, secretary; Horace Bingham, treasurer; Hiram Wright and Rufus Brayley, P. W. M's. At that time it showed the following named additional members: Charles Burlingham, Peter Clark, Nathan Chichester, Edward Camp, Smith Finch, Otis Higgins, Selden Higgins, John D. Langdon, Peter Sedam, Jonathan Woodbury, John Bowen, Allen Miller and Samuel E. Phoenix.

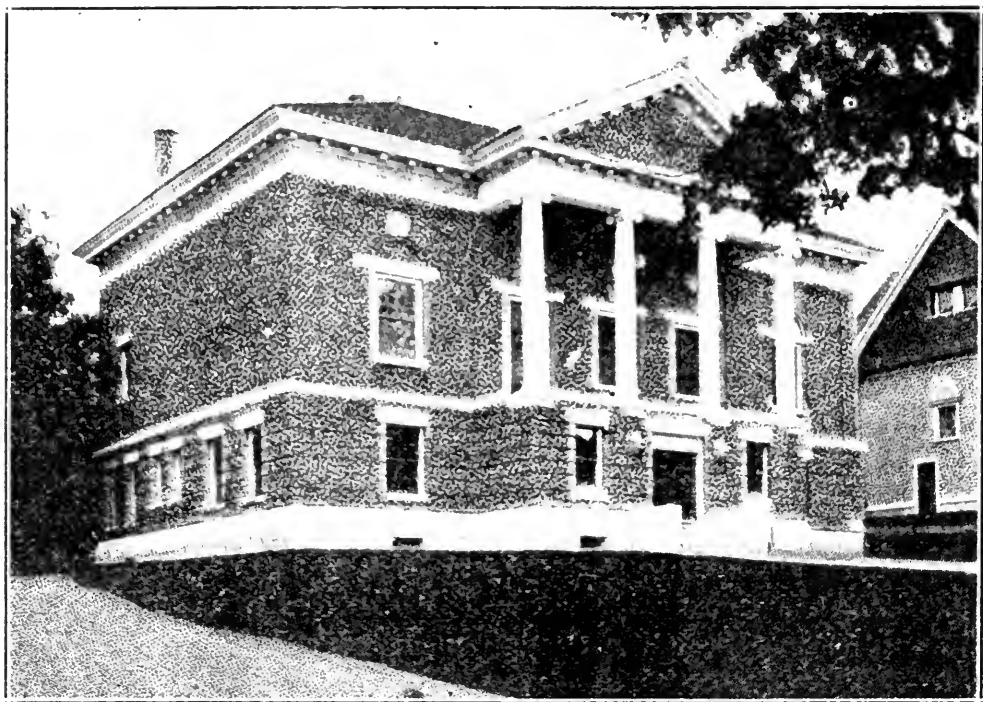
The first meetings of the local branch of the order were held on the second floor of the old log school building which was erected in 1816 on the corner of Lake and Short streets. The original charter was forfeited in 1835, probably because of the strong anti-Masonic feeling that arose because of the mysterious disappearance of Wm. Morgan of Batavia, author of a book purporting to disclose the secrets of Free Masonry. The agitation which followed his disappearance in 1829 caused many desertions by those affiliated with the order, and many charters in this section were surrendered.

On July 5th, 1856, the Grand Lodge granted a charter to Charles W. Hendee and Henry E. Daniels, and other petitioners, who adopted the name previously used by Perry Masons, and Constellation Lodge No. 404 came into existence. 1862, this charter was also surrendered, and during ten years the sound of the gavel was not heard in Perry. In 1872 the charter was restored, and since that there has been no interruption of its existence.

Since 1856, the following named have presided as Masters over its deliberations: Charles W. Hendee, Edwin M. Read, Horace M. Daniells, Milo H. Olin, Marshall S. Nobles, John J. Martin, Gilbert R. Traver, Albert H. Lowing, John F. Gates, Robert R. Dow, Philip S. Goodwin, Elmer J. Abbott, Thomas H. Donnelly, W. Dennison Olmstead, Sidney J. Jenckes, J. Robert Brownell, Fred M. Washburn, A. W. Hotaling. Kendall P. Smith is the Master-elect.

In the great fire which occurred in May, 1891, the lodge room was totally destroyed, together with all paraphernalia and many valuable documents, causing a severe loss over and above the insurance; but they arose from the ashes and at the annual session of the Grand Lodge, the following June, they obtained a duplicate of their charter.

For a long time there was agitation for a permanent home of their own, but the matter did not take definite shape until



MASONIC TEMPLE

the latter part of 1907. On Jan. 18th, 1909, the organization purchased the building and site on Main street that had for many years been known as the Columbus P. Andrus residence property for a consideration of \$5,000. It is a significant fact that Ebenezer Higgins, who was probably the prime mover in

instituting Free Masonry in Perry and was the first Master of the first lodge, coming here in 1818, for many years made his home on the site now occupied by the temple.

Following the purchase of the site, the members became active in raising funds to secure their cherished plan of a suitable temple for a permanent home and met with such success that the corner stone of the building was laid on October 9th, 1914. Delegations were present from surrounding towns, the city of Buffalo being represented by 25, some of them members of the Grand Lodge. Practically the entire membership of Constellation Lodge was present at their rooms at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, and in company with the visiting brethren they marched in a line of twos to the site of the temple, where exercises were conducted as follows: Selection by a male quartet composed of J. C. Herzberger, Walter Morse, Dr. F. M. Crocker and B. L. Mayhew; proclamation by Grand Marshal W. H. Ellis of Buffalo; opening of the Grand Lodge by Deputy Grand Master Thomas Penny of Buffalo; prayer by Grand Chaplain Rev. George E. Price of LeRoy; singing of the hymn "America," by the assemblage; presentation of silver trowel to Grand Master Penny by Worshipful Master Dr. F. M. Washburn, on behalf of Constellation Lodge. The order of service was: Presentation of box containing memorials, by Grand Treasurer J. R. Brownell; reading of contents of box by Grand Secretary W. D. Olmstead; depositing the box by Grand Treasurer; presentation of working tools by Master Architect George C. Fox; laying the stone by Grand Master Penny; testing the stone by Deputy Grand Master P. S. Goodwin, Senior Grand Warden John G. Wallenmeier, Jr., and Junior Grand Warden S. L. Strivings. Consecration: Scattering the corn by Deputy Grand Master; pouring the wine by Senior Grand Warden; sprinkling the oil by Junior Grand Warden; invocation by Grand Master; oration by Rev. George E. Price; proclamation

by Grand Marshal; music by quartet and Lodge; benediction by the Grand Chaplain.

The property represents a total investment of about \$30,000, which includes furnishings.

The first regular meeting in the new Temple was held on the night of Sept. 15th, 1915, when the members met in their lodge rooms in the Olin block, adjourned and marched in a body to their beautiful new home.

Silver Lake Lodge No. 106, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was granted a charter on Jan. 25th, 1844, the petitioners therefor being: Isaac N. Stoddard, Harry Brown, Josiah N. Higgins, Jared D. Turrell and Anson D. Smith. The lodge was instituted on Feb. 9th, 1844, by W. L. G. Smith, D. D. G. M. In the year 1862 the charter was surrendered, and those of its members who desired to retain their membership in the Order were obliged to affiliate with lodges in other towns. In August, 1891, a few of the Odd Fellows who were residents of Perry procured a special dispensation and began the work of securing new members. These brothers were John Stockwell, Leonard Tuthill, Frank Richards, Myron Wilcox and Warren Preston. John Stockwell was chosen Noble Grand and held the office until Jan. 4th, 1892, when he was succeeded by Leonard Tuthill. On Aug. 18th, 1891 a charter was granted and on Sept. 24th of that year the lodge was duly instituted by J. O. Williams, D. D. G. M. Crystal Salt Lodge No. 505, of Warsaw, was present in a body, and performed the first installation of officers. The ceremonies were held in the third story of the old Bailey block on the corner of Main and Covington streets. Later, lodge rooms were secured over Robert Stainton's dry goods store, in the brick block between the Owen and Cole blocks. In June, 1892, the hall owned by C. P. Andrus in the third story of the Andrus brick block and on the 16th it was ded-

icated to the uses of the organization. This was the regular meeting place of the lodge during a period of 18 years, at the end of which time they purchased the J. W. Olin brick block on the corner of Covington and Short streets and fitted their present attractive and commodious quarters for their temple. The new quarters were dedicated on Nov. 20th, 1910.

The following named are those who held the office of Noble Grand of Silver Lake Lodge No. 614, since the second charter was granted in 1891: John Stockwell, L. C. Tuthill, J. H. Terry, A. C. Bryant, E. U. Wilcox, T. H. Donnelly, J. C. Lillibridge, S. N. Buttles, S. E. Stow, Frank Dresher, B. F. Rollah, A. F. Davis, O. B. Finch, V. H. Badger, A. W. Waufle, C. G. Clarke, T. R. Douglas, J. B. Townsend, H. H. Kittle, J. H. Wilcox, M. A. Russell, M. F. Streeter, A. W. Hotaling, B. C. Shaw, J. T. Smith, A. C. Way, James McIntyre, Leonard Fish, L. S. Chapman, S. L. Pike, James E. Wade, R. H. Cone, John Stapleton, D. G. Bush, Luke Warner, John Scott, Wm. A. Noble, Charles Freeman, Fred Mason, Edwin R. Kershaw, Roy F. Hewitt, Raymond Taylor, Leslie Handley, A. J. Noble, Paul Hoeppner, Gustaf Peterson.

Various other fraternal organizations have come into existence during the later years of the town's existence, some of which have passed into history, while others are in a flourishing condition at the present time, but there number is so many that it is possible to mention particularly only the two referred to, which are the oldest and the best known.

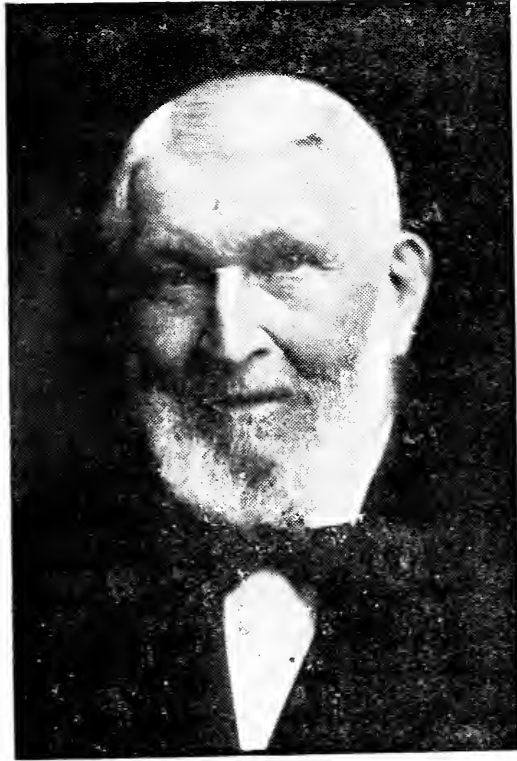
CHAPTER XXV

Silver Lake Agricultural and Mechanical Association—Wyoming Historical and Pioneer Association, Originator of Annual Pioneer Picnic at Silver Lake.

This organization came into existence at a meeting held on the 25th of October, 1879, and the following named gentlemen subscribed as charter members: John S. Westlake, Rufus H. Stedman, Moses C. Williams, Hugh M. Seranton, George Tomlinson, Lewis E. Chapin, Marshall S. Nobles, Willard J. Chapin, George H. Wright and Samuel A. Hatch. The objects of the Association were the promotion and advancement of agriculture, horticulture, mechanical arts and household industry. In less than a year from the date of the meeting a stock company had been formed with a capital of \$7,000, of which \$5,000 had been subscribed, 20 acres of land had been purchased from George H. Wright and David Andrus, and enclosed. A first-class half-mile track was constructed at a cost of more than \$1100, judges' stand, pens, stables and a secretary's office had been built. The track was surveyed by Henry Bates of Hornell and was constructed by Messrs. Wright and Shepard of Perry. R. W. Brigham was the first president of the organization and Lewis E. Chapin its first secretary. The first fair was held on Thursday and Friday, October 7th and 8th, 1880. There were 6000 people in attendance, and 916 entries in the several departments. The best racing time 2:33¼ for the mile, which was considered fast for that time. The grand stand and exhibition hall were constructed during the following year. In 1912 the grand stand was destroyed by fire, and a new and more commodious one was soon afterward erected.

Situated as we are, in the center of a fine agricultural community, where industries are not lacking, the institution of the Silver Lake Agricultural and Mechanical Association met with

the instant approval of the residents and acquired the hearty co-operation of all of those people who could properly come within its jurisdiction. During the 36 years of its existence



RANDALL W. BRIGHAM

the management has kept pace with the wonderful growth of the town, and its annual exhibitions attract thousands of people to Perry.

WYOMING HISTORICAL AND PIONEER ASSOCIATION

In the early Fall of 1872, the late Jonathan Sleeper of Perry and the late Myron Locke of Castile met at Silver Lake. In the course of their conversation, Mr. Sleeper said: "Myron, how would it do to have some handbills printed, advertising an

old folks' picnic to be held at the lake some time this Fall?" Mr. Locke replied that he thought it a good suggestion, and together the two men arranged the preliminary details for a good old-fashioned outing. The supposition was that there might be about 50 people present on the day appointed, but when the time came there were nearly 300 in attendance. During the course of the exercises, it was proposed to hold another meeting the following year. The attendance at this second gathering was so large that it was decided to institute a permanent organization. During the first few years the meetings were held in Saxton's grove. Logs with planks across them served for seats. As the gatherings increased in size and the interest deepened, it was proposed to buy a lot and erect a building thereon for the purpose of establishing a home for the organization. An application signed by six constituent members of the association was presented to the State for a charter, which was granted in 1874, under the name of the "Wyoming Historical and Pioneer Association."

Two acres of land in the grove owned by the late Samuel Sharp were purchased in 1877 and plans were drawn for a pioneer log cabin, 25x40 feet, one and one-half stories high. The work of building the cabin was done voluntarily, the logs being contributed and hauled to the ground. Many turned in and gave a helping hand, and a society in Perry gave an entertainment, the proceeds of which were used to purchase the shingles for the roof. The cabin was completed in time for the annual gathering in 1878. At the time of its transfer to the Association by the building committee, there was an incumbrance of \$162.00 on the building. Some one present suggested that a life membership ticket be issued, giving the holder all of the privileges of the Association upon payment of one dollar each, with the result that the dollars were handed to the secretary faster than he could write the receipts. In this way enough

money was raised in a few minutes' time to pay the entire indebtedness. The present auditorium was erected by the Association in 1896.

For nearly half a century the festival gatherings have been held, and the multitudes that assemble there annually is positive proof of its popularity.

Mr. Robert Grisewood, who was one of the early settlers of Perry, spent much time in collecting ancient relics and cur-



ALPHEUS S. SIMMONS

Trustee of Pioneer Association, and for many years Custodian of the Log Cabin, he was a familiar figure to visitors at the Lake.

ios to be placed on exhibition in the pioneer cabin. He met with much success in his search, which extended throughout

the county, and to the collection thus started, additions have been made from time to time by voluntary contributions. As one enters the cabin, it has the appearance of a pioneer's home. The open fireplace, with all kinds of cooking utensils in their proper places, is on one side. On shelves adjoining the chimney is the household crockery. In the opposite corner is the old-fashioned stairway by which the second floor may be reached. At the other end of the room, in one corner, is the primitive bedstead, which was made by boring holes into the logs at the end and side of the building, and driving in two poles, which project far enough for the length and width of the bed. The poles are supported at the ends by one post. Long strips of barks are woven between the poles and logs, on which the bed is made. The canopy is spread six feet from the floor, as in the olden time, to protect the bedclothing from the dirt that may come from above. Underneath is a trundle-bed for the children.

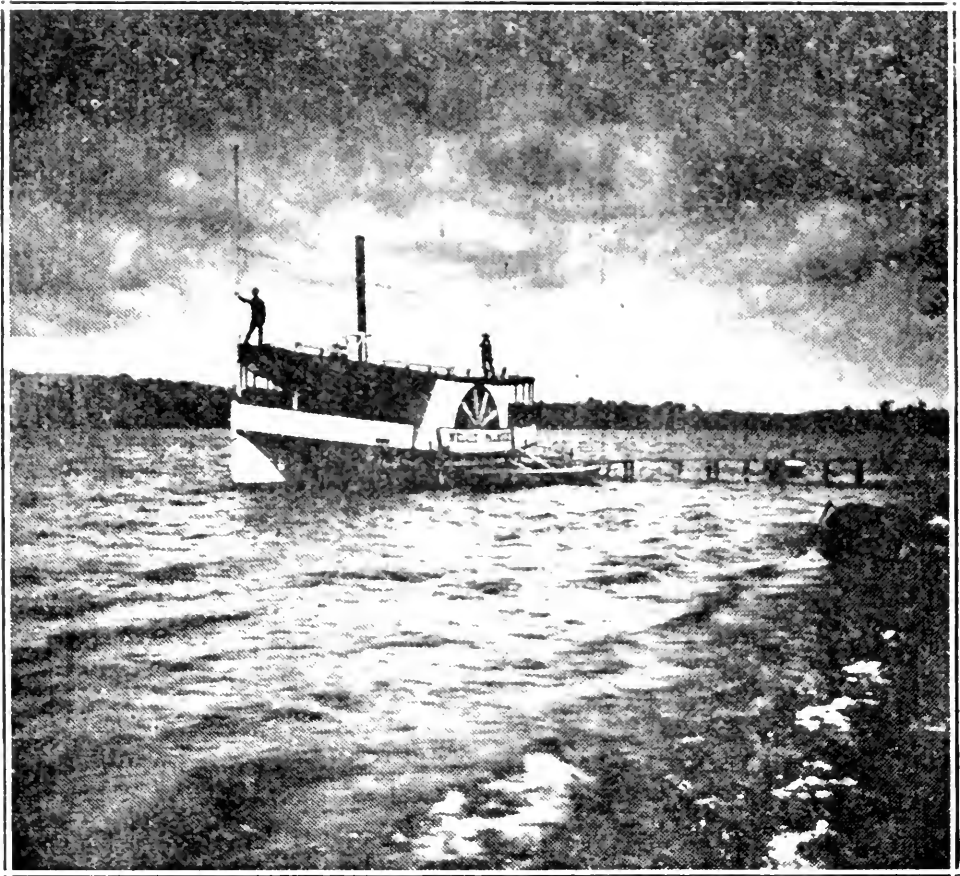
In the center of the room are placed several large show cases, where the smaller curiosities are kept under lock and key. Hanging from the walls in every conceivable place are seen hundreds of valuable relics, which, if lost or destroyed, could never be duplicated. At the top of the stairway at the south of the cabin, is a well lighted attic filled with interesting mementoes of pioneer days. Among these is the famous old wooden mold-board plow, made for four yoke of oxen; the mail bag used in the long ago to carry the mail from Geneseo to Angelica; old grain fans, harness, etc. In one corner of the room is a high bedstead made of black walnut, which was formerly the property of a Missouri slave-holder. Hanging from the rafters are frames filled with photographs of prominent pioneers. On the main floor is the desk that was used by the late Grover Cleveland at the time that he was mayor of the City of Buffalo, and many other equally valuable relics associ-

ated with the history of Western New York as well as with this immediate locality.

The great accumulation of these priceless relics and the fact that they are in a building that might be destroyed by fire prompted the trustees of the Association to ask that the people of this county vote an appropriation of \$5,000 for a suitable museum building that would be at least measurably fire-proof and light and attractive for the care and display of these relics, permitting the pioneer cabin to be solely what it was designed to be, a typical home of the people of the early days. It is hoped that the value and importance of such a building will impress itself upon our people. When given an opportunity to vote upon the proposition it was defeated, but it is hoped that if it shall be presented again a favorable vote will result, permitting the county to have a museum and historical representation of the things that are of inestimable educational value to the coming generations.

Nearly every one in this locality has seen the section of the big tree which stands upon platform just outside of the log cabin referred to, but few have learned of its early history. For centuries this tree stood as a landmark in this section; first for the native American, and then for the pioneer. It grew in a part of the Town of Pavilion, on the farm formerly owned by Calvin Dutton, and was known far and near as "the Giant Tree of Western New York." It measured 50 feet in circumference at the base, and about the year 1834, at the raising of a house on the farm, 40 men and boys gathered together at one time in the hollow of this tree. There was a sort of doorway or entrance into it, supposed to have been cut by Indians, who found in its capacious hollow, both shelter and rest. That it was known and honored by them the earlier history of the country shows, and the Batavia and Leicester road, which ran near the tree, was called by them "The Big Tree Road." A large part

of its top had fallen as long ago as 1815, yet the vitality of the trunk was preserved until the last. Two of the lower limbs of the tree were broken off about the year 1857, and one of them measured 12 feet in circumference. Conjecture as to its age



Steamer "Nellie Palmer," built in 1864 by public subscription. She was the first large steamer on Silver Lake and was the pride of the people for a number of years. She was about 50 feet long by 20 feet wide, with two decks and a carrying capacity of 150 passengers. She was of the side wheel pattern and could navigate in shallower water than her successors. She burned at her dock several years after the launching of her interesting career. She was named after Miss Nellie Palmer of this place, whose grandfather was the largest contributor to the fund for the boat's construction.

and height is vain. Many people believe it to have been at least 2,000 years old. Its resistance to decay, even after being bruised and broken, indicate remarkable longevity. The giant tree fell about the year 1875, during a severe electrical storm, and the portion of its base now at the pioneer grounds was placed there about the year 1880.

CHAPTER XXVI

Perry Public Library, the Realization of a Long-Cherished Dream— Beautiful Building Situated on an Ideal Site—Its Steady Development.

The dream of a public library in Perry had been cherished by many of its people for a number of years, as a particularly desirable institution demanded by the growth of the place. A circulating library was in existence for ten years or more, made possible by the enterprise of some of the women and men who were interested in the better class of historical and educational works as well as of fiction. A library was maintained in connection with the High School, and the friends of each hoped that they would some day form the nucleus of a public library that would better meet the growing needs of the community, to be housed in a suitable building that would be a home for such an institution and at the same time an ornament to the public buildings in the town. The first definite step in the agitation for a public library was made a few years ago, when Mrs. L. A. Macomber gave the sum of \$25 to the Mutual Friends Club to be used as a "nest egg" for the library fund, that organization being perhaps the most active in the agitation of the project.

An ideal site for the location of the proposed building was the practically abandoned old cemetery on North Main street, on the east side, a short distance above the corner of Main and Church streets. There were difficulties in the way, which required special legislation to overcome, and the aid of Thomas H. Bussey of Perry, then State Senator from the 44th District, was enlisted to secure such legislation as would give to the town the permanent use of the site for the purpose proposed. He therefore introduced and secured the passage of a bill which

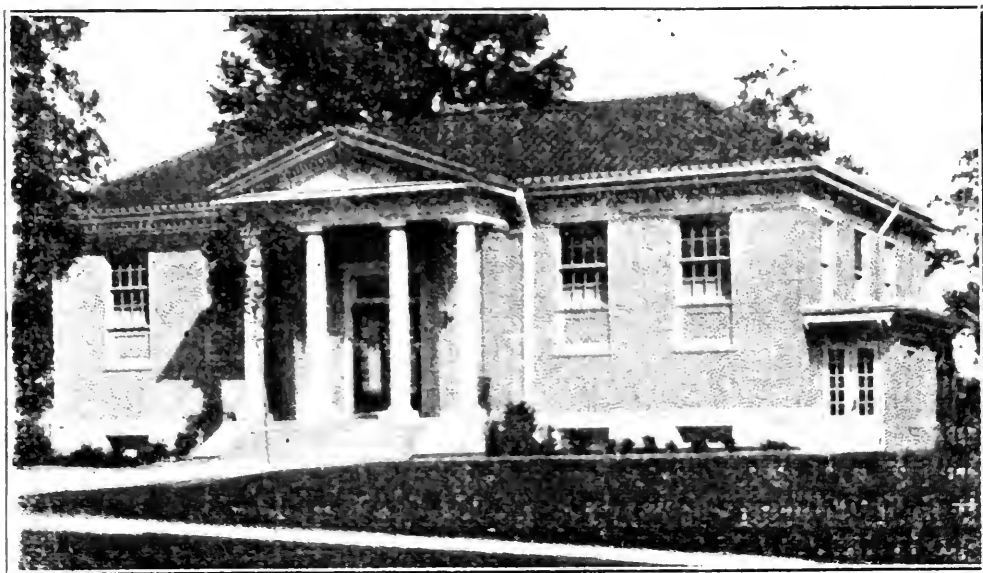
granted such rights to the town at the legislative session of 1912, becoming a law on May 7th of that year.

After considerable study of the matter and of the best method to secure a realization of the project, Mrs. L. A. Macomber, Mrs. W. H. McClelland and Miss Anna Dibble, a committee representing the Mutual Friends Club, the oldest literary organization in the town, called upon Supervisor W. D. Page on March 1st, 1911, and requested him to communicate with Mr. Andrew Carnegie, to see if that philanthropist could not be induced to bestow his favor upon Perry, as he had done upon many other towns and cities of the country. Mr. Page at once took up the matter, and after a correspondence covering a period of about a year, secured as a result of the solicitation, an agreement from the Carnegie Corporation to give the sum of \$12,000 for a library building, providing the people of the Town of Perry would furnish an acceptable site and vote to assure an annual appropriation of ten per cent, for its maintenance. The site was provided, as above referred to, in furnishing the old cemetery property, and a special town election was held on Tuesday, Oct. 8th, 1912, to vote upon the proposition to raise annually the sum of \$1200 for the maintenance of a public library. There was 336 ballots cast, of which 286 were affirmative and 44 negative, four void and two blank.

Plans for the proposed Library building were submitted by a number of architects, but those of Mr. Beverly S. King of New York meeting with the most favor and the fact being learned that he had furnished plans for many similar buildings, it was deemed advisable by the Town Board, under whose supervision the work must be performed, to have them drawn by an architect especially qualified in such matters by experience gained of requirements in places of this size, and of buildings to meet the special needs. It was decided, therefore, to employ

Mr. King, his plans meeting the approval of the Carnegie Corporation as well as the Perry people.

The plans were finally accepted during the week of May 7th, 1913, and the contract was let to Mr. Wm. A. Austin of Perry on the 6th day of June, for the sum of \$11,400, exclusive of the lighting fixtures. Ground was broken for the building on the 6th day of July, following, and it was completed in the Spring of 1914. On the 27th of May, at a special meeting of the Town Board, the following named were appointed as Library Trustees to serve until the biennial town election in



PUBLIC LIBRARY

November: Rev. C. H. Dibble, Mrs. Sophie Matteson, Miss Augusta Palmer, Fred W. Johntgen, C. Frank Eaton and Wm. D. Page.

Mr. Austin completed his work in a thorough and conscientious manner, the building being not only a credit to his skill, but an ornament to the town as well. Supervisor Page, who

gave a large part of his time to personal supervision of the work and in looking after the many details that are incident to building, shares credit for the excellent manner in which the work was performed, as well as in the preliminaries that made its realization possible.

The property was formally given over to the people of Perry on Tuesday evening, Oct. 13th, 1914, by Supervisor W. D. Page on behalf of the Town Board, at a well attended gathering in the beautiful new building. It was accepted by Rev. C. H. Dibble, president of the Board of Library Trustees, on behalf of the people. The Library opened for the drawing of books on Wednesday, Oct. 14th, and at the opening had over 2,400 well-selected volumes, that number being increased within the year to over 3,400.

Mrs. Jenny L. Nobles, whose long residence in the community and whose extended association with the student bodies of Perry High School, together with her other qualifications was believed to be best fitted for the work, was chosen Librarian, and her splendid record has demonstrated the wisdom of the selection.



MRS. JENNIE L. NOBLES

CHAPTER XXVII

Statistical Data Showing Growth in Population and Other Important Features—Residents Who Achieved Eminence in the Country—List of Public Officials.

The following figures taken from Government census reports, beginning with the first of such reports in 1830, show the development of the town and village. It will be noted that in 1840 the population outside of the village was considerably greater than at any period since that time.

Year	Town	Vil.	Year	Town	Vil.
1830	2792	....	1870	2342	867
1835	2984	....	1875	2416	....
1838	.....	870	1880	2510	1115
1840	3087	....	1890	2928	1520
1844	.....	739	1892	2990	....
1845	2952	....	1898	.....	2240
1850	2832	....	1900	3862	2763
1855	2560	....	1902	.....	3346
1858	2550	....	1905	4909	3749
1860	2485	935	1910	5360	4388
1865	2366	872	1915	5861	5009

It is interesting to note by a study of the above census figures that from 1840 there was a steady decrease in the population of the town until the time of the construction of the Silver Lake Railway in 1872, from which time a steady increase is shown in the succeeding census figures.

The following is a list of residents of Perry who have attained prominence in elective positions, so far as we have been able to learn them;

Chester A. Arthur, 21st President of the United States, son of Rev. Wm. Arthur, pastor of the Baptist Church from 1834 to 1837.

Rounsevelle Wildman, son of Prof. Edwin Wildman, became U. S. Consul at Bremen, Germany, Singapore, M. P., and Hong Kong, China. While stationed at Hong Kong, Mr. Wildman delivered to Commodore George Dewey the dispatches from Washington containing the Commodore's final orders before sailing his squadron to attack the Spanish fleet in the famous battle of Manila Bay. In that respect Perry is in a measure identified with that notable engagement, which is one of the most important in our naval history.

Monroe Bingham, afterwards Lieutenant-Governor of Wisconsin, was a resident of Perry until after his graduation from the Perry Center Institute during the early '40's.

State Senator—Thomas H. Bussey, 1911-1914.

Members of Assembly—Calvin P. Bailey, 1829-30.

Peter Patterson, 1833-4.*

Truman Benedict, 1843-44.

Samuel W. Tewksbury, 1874-5.

Henry N. Page, 1882.

Milo H. Olin, 1892-3.

Byron A. Nevins, 1906-7.

* After the organization of Wyoming County in 1841, Mr. Patterson was appointed one of the Associate Judges.

County Judge and Surrogate—Wm. Mitchell, 1843. Prior to the organization of Wyoming County, Mr. Mitchell held the office of County Judge for Genesee County, 1836.

County Treasurer—L. A. Hayward, 1856-9.

County Clerk—John H. Bailey, 1855.

Charles W. Bailey, 1861.

Sheriff—Jairus Moffett, 1852-55.

Wm. D. Miner, 1861-64.

George A. Sweet, 1870-73.

Wm. S. Sanford, 1900-1903.

District Attorney—LaVergne A. Walker, 1915.

Coroners—Dr. G. R. Traver, John H. Watson, Dr. Phillip S. Goodwin.

Dr. James E. Crichton, who went West when a young man, became Mayor of Seattle, Wash., and afterward Health Commissioner, in which last official position he won nation-wide fame for the splendidly efficient manner in which he improved the sanitary conditions of that thriving western city. He is recognized as an authority upon such matters and has been sought by other cities in various parts of the country to give them the benefit of his knowledge and experience.

Judge Arthur Sutherland, who spent a portion of his school days in Perry, became Supreme Court Justice for the Seventh Judicial District of New York State.

Mrs. Carrie Moss Hawley, who has achieved prominence in the literary world, was born in Perry, where she received her early education. She removed to Iowa and became president of the Iowa Authors' Club.

The prominent people referred to above are in addition to those mentioned in previous chapters of the History of Perry.

The town and village records were destroyed by fire in 1866. Some portions of the town records prior to that time have been found in the county records, but the village records previous to that date are unobtainable.

Supervisors:

1814—Jairus Cruttenden.

1815-16—Levi Benton.

1817—John Bowers.

1818-20—Levi Benton.

1821-22—Oren Sheldon.

1823-26—Rufus H. Smith

- 1827-29—Robert Moore.
1830—James Symonds.
1831-33—Phicol M. Ward.
1834—James Symonds.
1835-43—Truman Benedict.
1844-47—Samuel Benedict.
1848—Levi H. Parsons.
1849-50—Jason Lathrop.
1851-55—John Coleman.
1856-65—Dennis R. Taylor.
1866-70—Samuel W. Tewksbury.
1871-72—Randall W. Brigham.
1873—Samuel W. Tewksbury.
1874-75—Wm. Crichton.
1876-79—Henry N. Page.
1880-82—George Tomlinson.
1883-87—Byron A. Nevins.
1888-89—Robert R. Dow.
1890-91—Charles H. Toan.
1892-1900—Edward G. Matthews.
1901-1902—William W. Grieve.
1903-1906—Byron A. Nevins.
1907-1910—Thomas H. Bussey.
1911-1915—Wm. D. Page.

Town Clerk—the first clerk was Warren Buckland, elected in 1814. There is no existing record of the length of time he served, the next one of whom we have knowledge was Henry Cleveland, serving in 1844. From Mr. Cleveland there is another lapse of record until 1857, when B. B. Higgins was clerk. The record since that time is complete, showing the following named:

E. H. Wygant, 1858-65; R. C. Mordoff, 1866-68; W. J.



HON. THOMAS H. BUSSEY
State Senator from the 44th District.

Chapin, 1869-79; H. A. Cole, 1880-1902; C. G. Clarke, 1903-1912;
C. N. Read, 1913-1915.

Village Officers

Presidents

1866	
1867	Mortimer Sharpsteen
1868	John S. Thompson
1869	Samuel L. Chapin
1870	Samuel L. Chapin
1871	Lyman G. Morgan
1872	Russell C. Mordoff
1873	Jerome Allen
1874	Jerome Allen
1875	Henry N. Page
1876	R. C. Smith
1877	R. C. Smith
1878	H. C. Loomis
1879	H. C. Loomis
1880	Dr. G. R. Traver
1881	M. C. Williams
1882	M. C. Williams
1883	Geo. W. Grieve
1884	Geo. W. Grieve
1885	Geo. W. Grieve
1886	R. H. Stedman
1887	R. H. Stedman
1888	R. H. Stedman
1889	R. H. Stedman
1890	A. H. Lowing
1891	W. H. Matteson
1892	W. H. Matteson
1893	Geo. W. Grieve
1894	John H. Watson
1895	Thomas H. Bussey
1896	Wm. D. Page
1897	Wm. D. Page
1898	Wm. D. Page
1899	Wm. D. Page
1900	John Harding

Clerks

[illegible]

1901	Thomas H. Bussey	Oscar N. Bolton
1902	Thomas H. Bussey	Oscar N. Bolton
1903	Charles H. Toan	Oscar N. Bolton
1904	Charles H. Toan	Oscar N. Bolton
1905	Robert R. Dow	Oscar N. Bolton
1906	Earl V. Jenks	Oscar N. Bolton
1907	Earl V. Jenks	Oscar N. Bolton
1908	Patrick J. O'Leary	Oscar N. Bolton
1909	Patrick J. O'Leary	Oscar N. Bolton
1910	Patrick J. O'Leary	Oscar N. Bolton
1911	Chester A. Carmichael	Oscar N. Bolton
1912	Charles H. Toan	Oscar N. Bolton
1913	Fred D. Fanning	Oscar N. Bolton
1914	James E. Cooper	Oscar N. Bolton
1915	James E. Cooper	Oscar N. Bolton

The following is a list of those who have served as Post-



DR. HUGH M. SCRANTON

Postmaster of Perry for a quarter of a century.

master: James C. Edgerly, Thomas Edgerly, Benjamin Gardner, Wm. Turner, Willard J. Chapin, Sr., Rufus H. Smith, Anson D. Smith, Abram Lent, H. K. Whelpley, Jason Lathrop, George A. Sanders, Hugh M. Scranton, George W. Grieve, Joseph E. Cole.



WM. H. HAWLEY

Postmaster at Perry Center for many years; Index Clerk of the State Assembly and prominent in Republican State politics.

Postmasters at Perry Center

Talcott Heward, Jason Lathrop, Henry Cleveland, Charles McEntee, Daniel Ball, I. G. Bishop, W. H. Hawley, Jr., Miss Millie Hawley, Frank D. Hodges.

This office was discontinued in 1912, being abolished because of the service by the rural free delivery routes. At one time in its history the office paid an annual revenue of \$600.

Roster of Professional and Business Men of Perry

This list does not include all of the different branches, as the writers have found it to be an almost endless task to secure all of them in all of the lines. We have had to be content with those who have been most prominent in the business and professional life of the town.

Physicians—Jabez Ward, Jacob Nevins, Ezra Child, Otis Higgins, Mason G. Smith, George L. Keeney, Jonas Huntington, Z. W. Joslyn, Jonathan Howard, R. A. Patchin, C. A. Dake, T. M. Harvey, J. Post, Wm. H. Hull, M. G. Davis, C. R. Barber, Charles R. Pierce, W. Green, T. R. Huntington, Samuel Ellis, Gilbert R. Traver, Wm. Crichton, L. L. Rockafellow, J. H. Wheeldon, L. W. Hunt, ——— Hannon, James Crichton, D. W. Rudgers, Henry King, Myron King, John Harding, Phillip S. Goodwin, C. L. Parker, Miss S. E. Ullyette, George Westfall, Mrs. Annie H. Pierce, W. J. Austin, Albert C. Way, A. B. Straight, Clifford R. Hervey, George H. Peddle, James S. Dawson, J. S. Wright, J. R. Brownell, C. R. Brown.

Dentists—Silas Smith, J. Naramore, C. G. Bartlett, H. M. Seranton, E. M. Seranton, Charles R. Calkins, F. H. Cole, F. M. Washburn, E. M. Read, Frank M. Crocker, Robert W. Calkins.

Attorneys—Robert Moore, Calvin Pepper, M. C. Hough, Linus W. Thayer, I. M. Stoddard, Levi Gibbs, J. J. Pettit, Wm. Pettit, L. A. Hayward, Wm. Mitchell, J. E. Lee, George Hastings, ——— Blennerhassett, N. E. Thomas, A. A. Hendee, D. L. Gilman, A. Lent, Rollin Rice, E. B. Fisk, G. L. Walker, Morris A. Lovejoy, Owen Harris, Barna C. Roup, W. Dennison Olmsted, Lavergne A. Walker, Charles W. Johnson, George M. C. Parker, Carlos J. Toan.

General Merchants—James C. Edgerly, Bailey & Hatch, Thomas Edgerly, Benjamin Gardner, Richard Bagley, ——— DeZang, Wm. Wiles, M. Stratton, Rufus H. Smith, Hoag & Bailey, Bailey & Sherman, Orris Gardner, Phoenix & Brother, Cleveland & Clark, Armitage & Faulkner, Thomas Humphrey, L. B. Parsons & Son, E. L. H. Gardner & Co., Parsons & Clark, Clark & Mitchell, P. Cady, Smith & Graves, D. Graves. Cleveland & Graves, Aplin & Huntington, C. P. Bailey & Son, Cory-

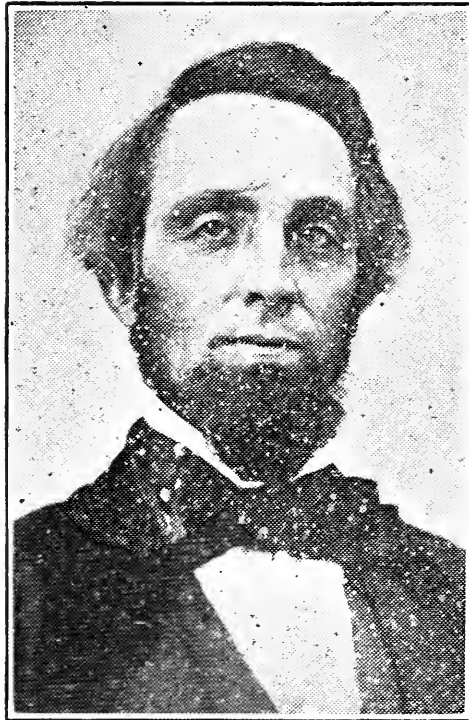
don & Weed, S. W. Merrill & Son, I. Macomber, S. W. & C. Merrill, George L. Davis, Cook & Morse, C. & A. D. Merrill, Anson D. Smith, Henry N. Page, S. P. Clark, Henry W. Barton, John H. Bailey, J. H. & C. W. Bailey, Robert Grisewood, F. O. Bullard & Co., Mordoff & Higgins, R. C. Mordoff & G. B. Olin, Eugene Andrus, Russell C. Mordoff, A. H. Sleeper, Robert Stainton, G. M. Davis, W. H. Hawley, Hawley & Son, E. & L. Bullen, C. F. Eaton.

Grocers—Elijah Hammond, Walter Little, H. W. Barton, Jivah Higgins, R. T. Hill, Hicks & Bailey, B. B. Hicks, Burt & Hosford, R. Stratton, Enos W. Frost, Williams & Stedman, George Pritchard, Geo. Pritchard & Co., Columbus P. Andrus, Charles Parker, Andrus & Cole, J. B. Higgins, J. B. Higgins & J. W. Olin, Higgins & Hatch, Wheeler & Garrison, W. Wallace, Smith & Garrison, Billings & King, C. Westbrook, F. O. Bullard, Bullard & Stainton, Marcus D. Smith, Rufus H. Stedman, S. Bayne, John S. Garrison, Hatch & Cole, Stedman & Hart, W. H. Herron, H. J. Ellsworth, Hatch & Co., Williams & Mace, ——— Locke, Williams & Stedman, Phillip J. Cooper, Cooper & Newman, S. S. Caswell, Paul Armstrong & Co., B. F. Rollah, Casterline & Hollister, Ben J. Tyler, Hatch, Cole & Roche, Hatch & Roche, C. R. Sutton, S. C. Allen, Watkins Bros., Watkins & McKurth, C. N. Read, B. F. Eberstein, Garrison & Macomber, Macomber & Grieve, Straight & VanGilder, M. A. Macomber, O'Brien & Kennedy, Charles Kennedy, Wernham Bros., F. D. Hodges & Co., Albert Ames, M. F. Streeter, Hovey Bros., A. H. Hovey, M. F. Commiskey & Co., W. G. Roche, Chas. Balistrere, Francis Ballistrere, Marshall & Sons, F. B. Smith, Irving H. Eaton, F. L. Stewart, Schaumburg & Son, A. L. Colburn, Frank Rychlick, Rae Jones.

Hardware—E. P. Clark, ——— Huntington, Wyckoff & Tuttle, Wyckoff, Tuttle & Olin, R. J. Clemons, F. C. & D. S. Walker, D. S. Walker, F. O. Bullard & Co., F. H. Alburty, Alburty & Soper, E. Cooper, Smith & Loring, Smith & Martin, Tallman & Son, A. W. Tallman, M. H. Olin, M. H. Olin & Son, T. V. Moore, Eaton & Mephram, Olin & Peek, Olin, Peek & Grieve, Olin & Grieve, C. Frank Eaton, Walter T. Olin, Harry H. Chaddock, Ireland & Cone, Joseph Ireland.

Druggists—Joseph Lamberson, Hubbard & Wakelee, Calvin L. Hubbard, Clark & Mitchell, David Mitchell, S. & B. B. Higgins, Wright & Allen, John H. Terry, Willard J. Chapin, Chapin & Olin, Milo H. Olin, James H. Owen, George J. Watson, Watson & Son, John Harry Watson, C. Newton Read, Fred H. Mason, Mason & Baker, Baker & Roberts.

Dry Goods—Cook & Currier, N. P. Currier, R. C. Mordoff, Mordoff & Currier, Mordoff & Torrey, E. H. Andrus & Co., Yale & Williams, Robert Stainton, Bullard & Stainton, M. C. Williams, Williams & Whelpley, M. C. Williams & Co., Gillett &



N. P. CURRIER

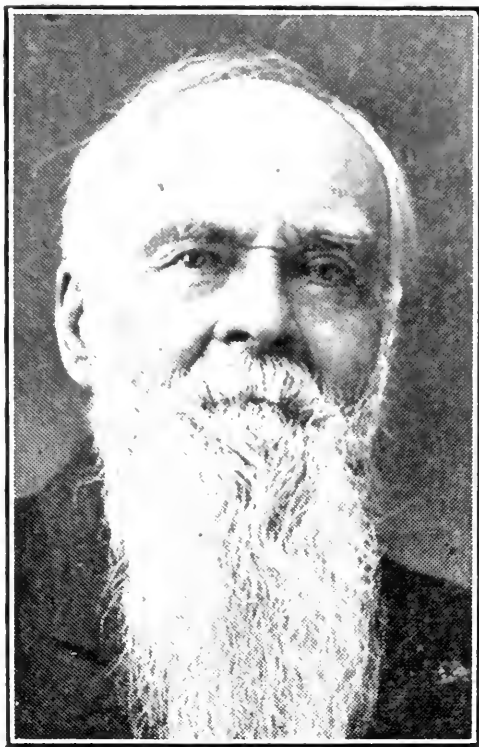
Prominent business man of the early days and active in local affairs.

Tomlinson, Gillett & Co., W. A. Gillett, Charles Wise, J. Clarence Lillibridge, Nast & Fitch, T. B. R. Fitch, George A. White, Royce & Wright, C. L. Coburn, Wise & VanEtten Co., S. H. Weithorn.

Booksellers, Stationers, Etc.—E. M. Tompkins, A. D. Smith & Co., Henry N. Page, R. D. Higgins, Byron Nevins, Wygant & Nevins, E. H. Wygant, Spencer F. Lang, Stewart & Jenckes, Sidney J. Jenckes, Ray Severns.

Jewelers—J. B. Flower, Seymour Sherman, E. M. Kimball, James Huntington, Chapin & Olin, John H. Watson, Robert Kershaw, L. G. Abbott, Kershaw & Son, M. J. Kershaw, F. A. Allen.

Photographers—M. N. Crocker,——— Heath, ——— Abbott, W. C. Duryea, W. C. Davis, Andrew Lynd, James Thayer, J. W. Olin, C. W. Tallman, W. A. Bassett.



M. N. CROCKER

Leader in musical circles in the middle of the century. Photographer who had an enviable reputation as an artist.

Clothiers—Daniel Richards, J. S. Westlake, J. S. Brayton, S. N. May, H. K. Whelpley, Alexander Morton, R. C. Mordoff, S. Goldwater & Bro., Fred Seegar, S. Goldwater, Tallman Bros. & Co., Tallman & Noonan, Mortimer Duryee, Fred C. Bliss, Jenks & Bliss, Johantgen Bros., Fred W. Johantgen, Nesmith & Phillips, Salmon & Ettingshaus, D. W. Watson, Smith & Schouten, C. A. King Co.

Musical Instruments—German Sweet, L. B. Sweet, E. D. Sweet, J. W. Martin & Bro., Wm. E. Copeland, Albert R. Watrous, Watrous & Rumsey.

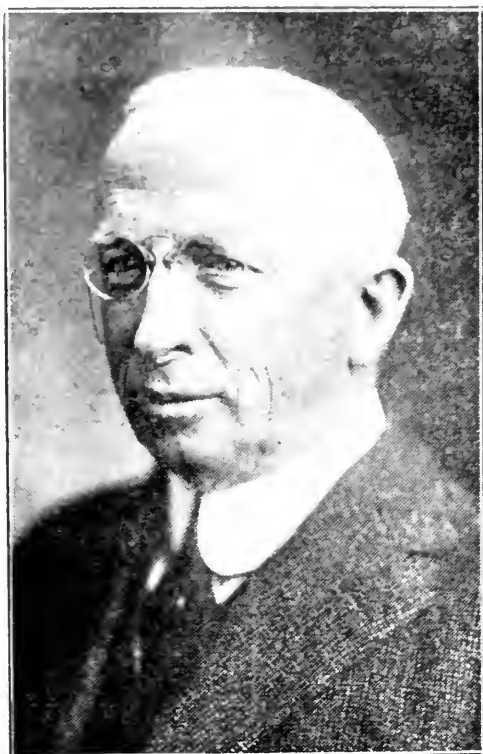
Shoe Dealers—J. King, Slocum & TenEyck, John TenEyck, E. Higgins & Son, Peter Alburty, W. J. Chapin & Co., W. & J. Ridsdale, Levi D. Warren, Besancon & Lawrence, George C. Chapin & Co., Moffett & Brown, Smith & Butler, A. C. Barras, R. C. Smith, J. B. Shearman, A. H. Sleeper, Alexander Cole, Abram White, C. S. Smith & Co., A. Cole & Son, Charles S. Smith, A. White Estate, H. A. Cole & Son, George A. White, W. J. Gregg, George L. Peck, Lester Shoe Store, P. J. Cooper, Salmon & Ettingshaus.

Furniture Dealers—David A. Shirley, J. S. Horton, Hooper & Buttre, Nelson Edgerly, W. T. Buttre, Lewis & Stout, C. E. Lewis, Gilbert H. Westlake, Martin Post, Howell & Jenkins, F. L. Howell, W. O. Davis, Caleb Tarplee, B. A. Nevins & Son, Hart & Grieve, Tarplee & Stowell Co.

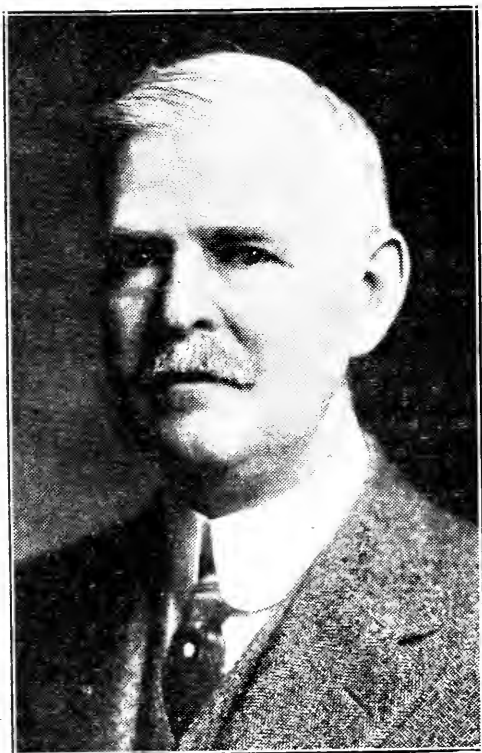
Markets—J. N. Bolton, Homan & Sweet, C. H. Homan, Homan & Prindle, M. S. Sweet, Donlon & Gibney, Donlon, Gibney & VanDresser, C. W. VanDresser, T. H. Commiskey, Lew Kimball, Homan & Austin, J. N. Austin, I. J. Elling, M. A. Macomber, Hamilton & Smith, Charles Hoyt, Edward VanArsdale, M. F. Commiskey, B. F. Hodges.



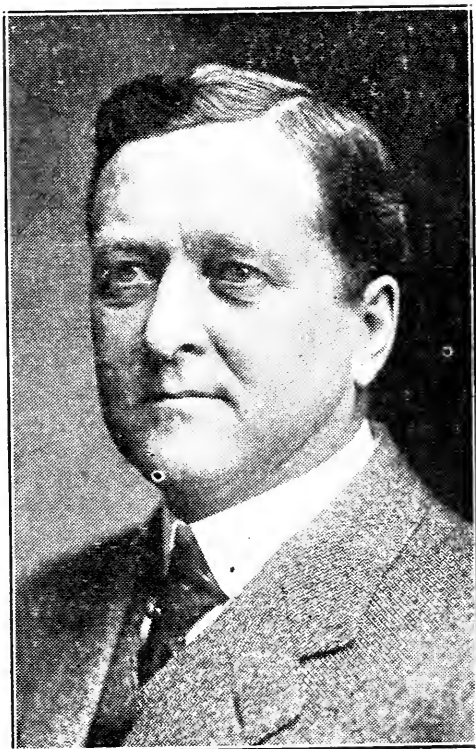
WM. D. PAGE
President of First National Bank



JAMES NEWTON WYCKOFF
President of Tempest Knitting Co.



CLARENCE M. SMITH
Cashier of The Citizens' Bank.



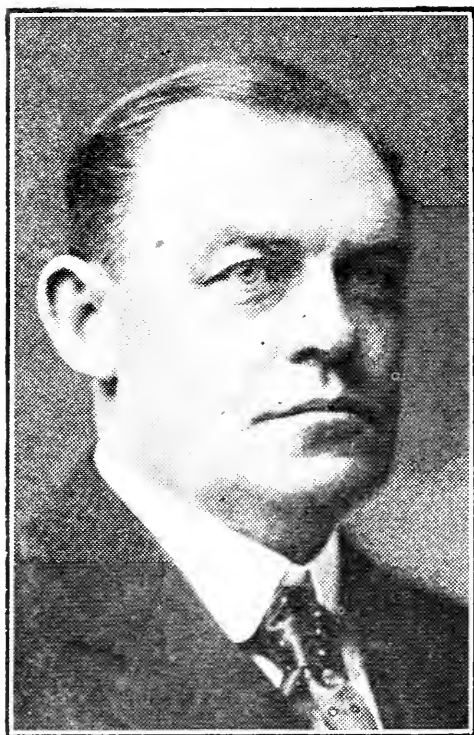
WALTER T. OLIN
Vice-President of The Citizens'
Bank.



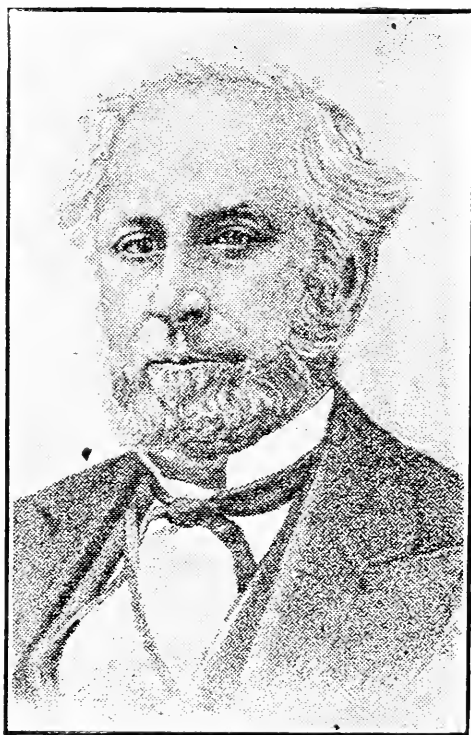
CHESTER A. CARMICHAEL
Prominent in Village and Educa-
tional affairs.



CHARLES H. TOAN
Prominent in Village and Town
Affairs.



HON. BYRON A. NEVINS
Active in local matters; Supervisor
Member of Assembly.



HON. SAMUEL W. TEWKSBURY
Prominent in Early Life at Perry
Center; Supervisor and Mem-
ber of State Assembly.

ADDENDA

Since the publication of the chapters dealing with the earlier history a few additional facts have been gathered and are inserted here in order to make it as complete as possible. Also, a few corrections are here made:

In Chapter I., page 9, third paragraph, it states that "Mary¹ Jemison and her descendants continued to reside upon this tract until 1816, when she sold all but two square miles on the west side of the river to Micah Brooks and Jellis Clute and removed to the Cattaraugus Reservation." It should read: "Mary¹ Jemison and her descendants continued to reside upon this tract until 1816, when she sold all but two square miles on the west side of the river to Micah Brooks and Jellis Clute. The remaining part she sold in 1831 to Henry B. Gibson and Jellis Clute and removed to the Cattaraugus Reservation."

Amos Smith, who came to Perry in 1808, joined the United States Navy in the War of 1812 and won the rank of ensign.

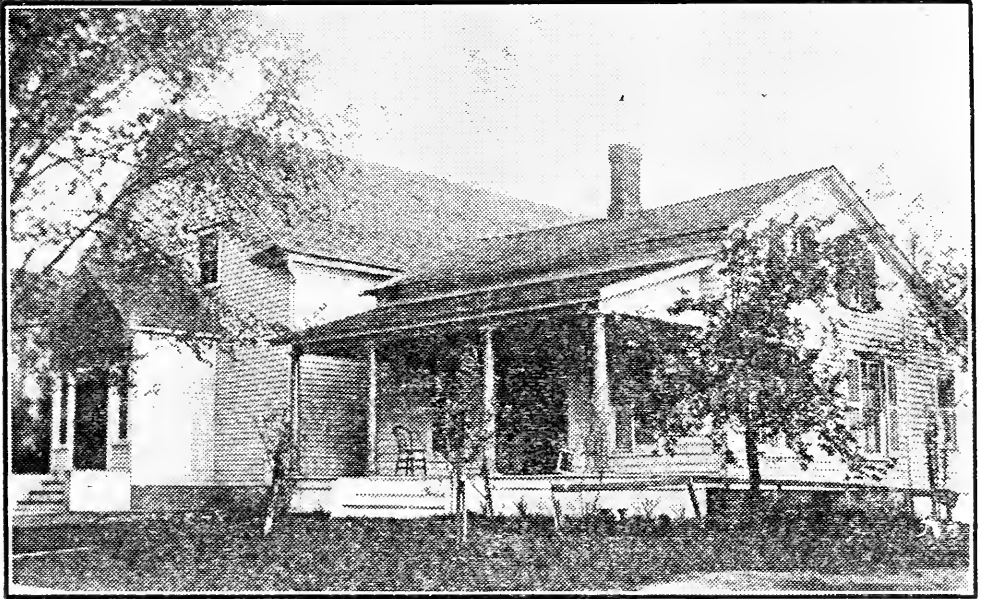
Jonathan Child, who is mentioned in Chapter II, page 31, as a partner of Benjamin Gardner, removed to Rochester and later became that city's first mayor.

James Edgerly and his son-in-law, Thomas Bachelder, with their families came to Perry from Vermont in 1811. They settled near the present site of LaGrange at what later became known as "Edgerly's Corners." Mr. Edgerly remained there but a year and removed to the Village, as mentioned in Chapter II. In the Methodist Episcopal Church history, page 155, it will be noted that the name of Mr. Bachelder is mis-spelled, appearing as Batchelden.

David Nevins, brother of Dr. Jacob Nevins referred to in Chapter III, came to Perry in 1815. He returned to his former home in Danville, Vt., and with his brother Jacob he came in 1816 to Perry to reside.

Robert Watson came to Perry in 1817 and took up land now owned by Wilbur Watson. This tract has been in the possession of the Watson family continuously for 99 years. Mr. Robert Watson is buried in the cemetery at West Perry.

In the list of Members of Assembly, published on page 358, it will be noted that Henry N. Page is credited with one year (1882) in the Assembly. He was re-elected in 1883 and served two terms in the State Legislature.



POLISH CATHOLIC CHURCH

REV. JOSEPH RUDZINSKI
Rector of Polish Catholic Church.



"Putting the town on the map" is somewhat of a slang expression that has come into quite general use. Until about the year 1914 the Town of Perry did not appear on any of the Government maps, and to an interested Perry citizen, Mr. E. D. Bloom, belongs the credit for discovery of the neglect. He called attention of Government authorities to the oversight and made urgent request that it be remedied, with the result that he was responsible for literally "putting the town on the map."

John S. Westlake, who was born in Somersetshire, England, in 1811, came to Perry in 1847 and followed the trade of tailor, later engaged in the ready-made clothing business. His store was destroyed by fire in 1856, and in 1858 he erected the brick block known as the "Goldwater block," on Main street, in which he conducted a successful business for a period of 30 years, when he sold to the Goldwater Brothers. The building was seriously damaged in the fire of 1891. Mr. Westlake was prominently identified with the First Baptist Church of Perry, of which he was a deacon. He died on April 23d, 1892, and his remains were laid at rest in Hope Cemetery.

The value and importance of having the history of Perry compiled and published at the period in which the work was undertaken may perhaps be better appreciated when the reader's attention is called to the people to whom the writers are under great obligation for facts secured, statements verified and letters or documents kindly loaned, who have since passed to the Great Beyond. Without the information gained from them it would be impossible now to present the facts as completely and authentically as they appear in this history. Those referred to are Harwood A. Dudley, Jerome Edgerly, Thomas R. Buell, Aaron Axtell and Charles A. Chapin.

To Mrs. Sarah Clark Austin, for many years an instructor in Perry Union School, we acknowledge with appreciation our indebtedness for much of the matter pertaining to Perry Academy and the Union and High School, as well as other educational institutions.

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ilton Waldo, Arthur C. Stowell, Peter Schenck, W. S. Benedict, R. S. Baker, E. R. Kershaw, Raymond Taylor, C. W. Torrey and W. W. Aikin.

To any others who have directly or indirectly given us assistance and who may have been inadvertently overlooked, we acknowledge our appreciation for favors shown.

The preparation, compilation and publication of this history has covered a period of nearly four years, taking such time as could be spared from active duties in business lines, and while the task has been an arduous one it has nevertheless been a labor of love. We realize that it has many imperfections, as neither of the writers makes any claim to being a historian. The purpose has simply been to prepare and present a history of the town for its first century period in chronological narrative form, giving as far as possible such intimate details of what news writers call "local color" as will make it of permanent value not only to descendants of the pioneers, but to all others as well who have an attachment for the town by reason of its being their birthplace, the scene of their school days, or for other sentimental reasons.

With the earnest hope that it may not prove to be "Love's labor lost," we dedicate it to Perry and the splendid people who have helped to give the community the character and standing that have won for the town such a favorable reputation, not only throughout Western New York, but beyond the confines of the Empire State.

We wish to acknowledge our obligations to Photographer W. A. Bassett for pictures from which half-tone reproductions have been made to provide illustrations for this book.

We present this history with a full realization of its imperfections as a product of the printer's art, but as the work has had to be done at such intervals as our regular newspaper work would permit, and often in haste that prevented such painstaking care as we desired to give it, we trust that readers will appreciate the handicaps we have had and take it for what it is designed to be—a history of Perry for its first century, prepared as accurately as possible and published in a readable and neat form to insure its permanence.

FRANK D. ROBERTS.
CARL G. CLARKE.

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